MARVEL
25TH
ANNIVERSARY
© 1986 MARVEL COMICS GROUP
TM
2
1986
ONLY
50¢
GIANT-SIZED ANNUAL
MARVEL AGE
ANNUAL
FROM THE
MARVEL UNIVERSE™
TO THE
new universe™

Stan Lee presents

MARVEL AGE® ANNUAL

Shooter's SALICRUP'S SECTION

This summer, Marvel Comics will launch the most daring and significant project in our history. It is called the **New Universe**. We believe that this is an event as important as the beginning of the Marvel Universe in 1961. The first eight **New Universe** titles will go on sale during July. They are:

Star Brand
Spitfire and the Trouble Shooters
Nightmask
Psi-Force
Kickers, Inc.
Justice
Merc
D.P. 7

These closely interrelated titles will form the foundation of the future, for, without a doubt, the **New Universe** will revolutionize the comics medium. Yes, we're *that* sure.

Meanwhile, what about the "old" Universe? Does the advent of the **New Universe** mean the end of the **Marvel Universe** as we know it?

Nah.

The **Marvel Universe** is one of the greatest works of creation since storytelling was invented—an undertaking as huge and intricate in its own way as the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Like other great works of fiction, it has taken on a life of its own. It is unique. It continues to grow and thrive, and *will* continue to do so. The certain success of the **New Universe** does not obviate it any more than *Star Wars* obviated *The Lord of the Rings*. The **New Universe** adds an unprecedented dimension to our medium, creating *more* space in which to work, not less. The "old" Universe need not be defended or justified. What it should be is *celebrated*. And on this, its twenty-fifth anniversary, that's just what we intend to do. And if you don't believe it, just check out what's in this special 25th Anniversary Special Marvel Age Annual:

—Highlights of Marvel's first 25 years.

—A special re-presentation of a classic behind-the-scenes-with-Stan-and-Jack story.

—A What-if-Marvel-Age-were-published-in-1963 preview of "those new series," **THE UNCANNY X-MEN** and **THE AVENGERS.**

—Previews of what's coming up throughout the Marvel Universe by Marvel's greatest stars!

And, by the way, there's also a brief preview of the **New Universe**.

Hope you enjoy it.

Strive on!

Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

MARVEL AGEnda

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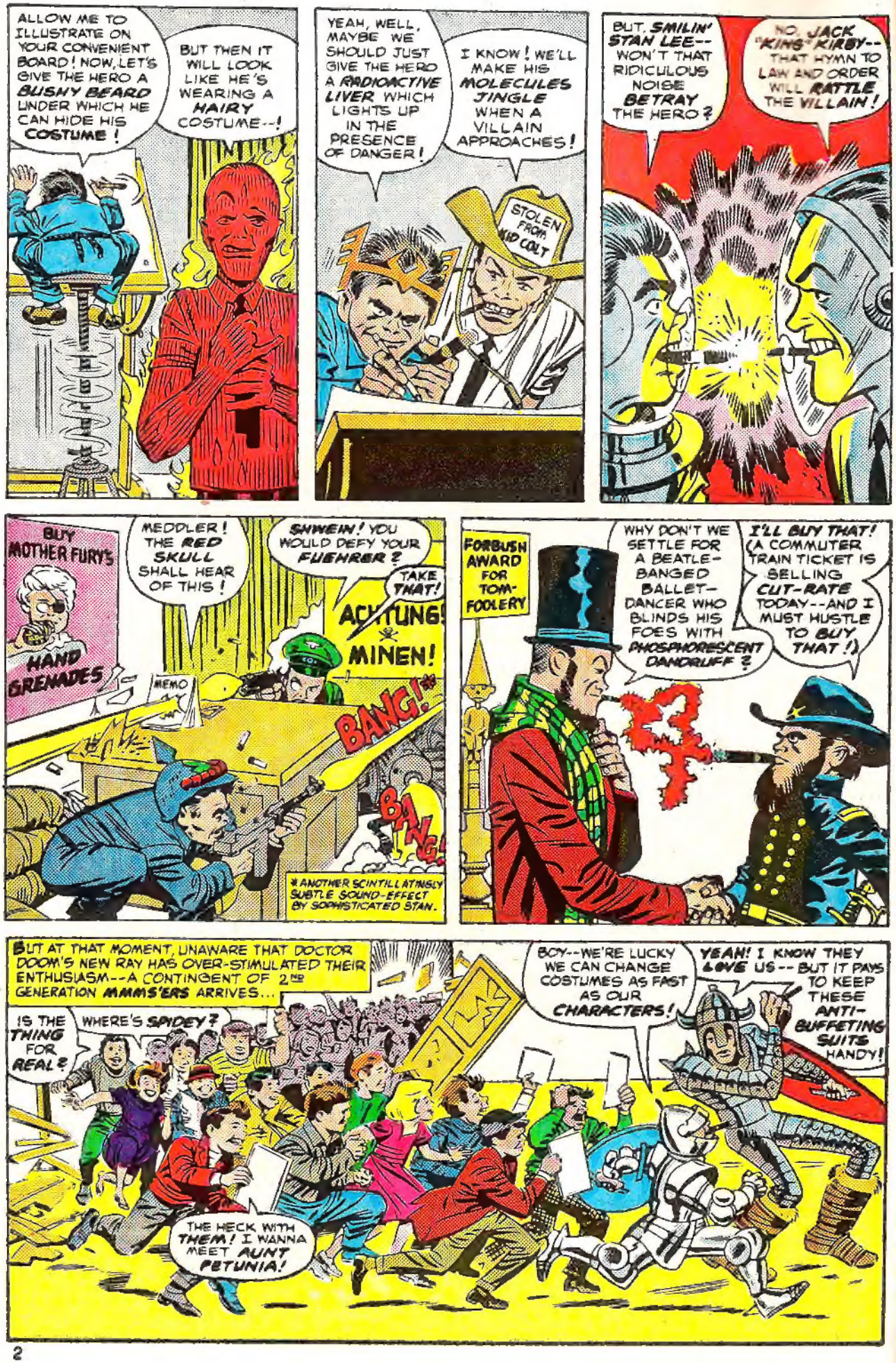
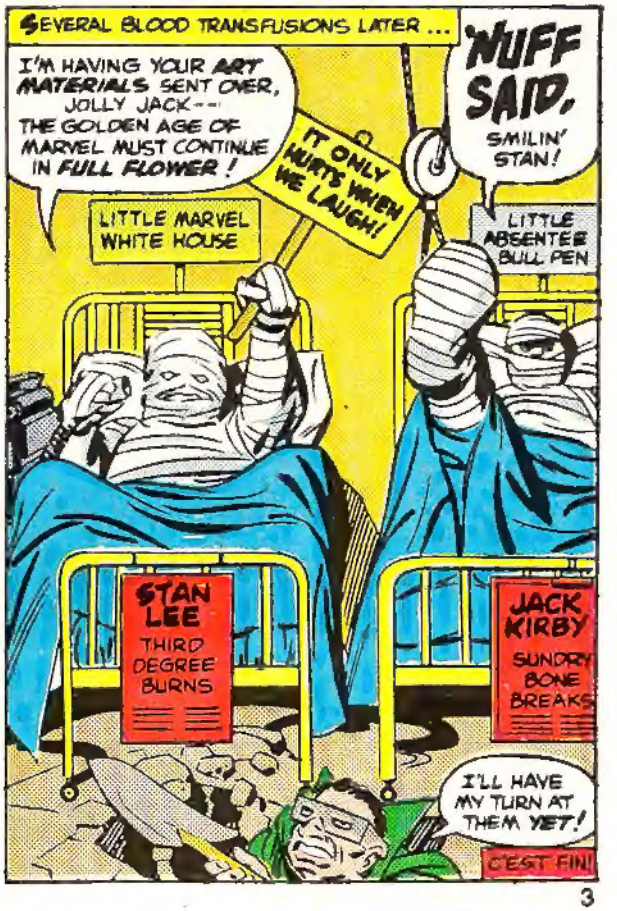
IS IT A TAFFY PULL? IS IT A MASSACRE? IS IT SOCIAL NIGHT IN A BEAR PIT? NO, YOU QUAINT AND QUERULOUS QUIXOTIC MARVEL MADMEN, THIS TRANSCENDS THE COMPLEXITY OF THE TV HILL BILLIES THEMSELVES!
THIS IS A PLOT?
ON THE OUTSIDE, OUR NEW CHARACTER MUST BE SMOOTH, DASHING, CONTINENTAL--A TERROR IN TUXEDOS WHO CLEANS HIS FINGERNAILS BEFORE DEFUSING AN H-BOMB!
WELL, TO BE REALLY FRANK, PUSSYCAT, IT'S AN ITTY-BITTY, RIBBY-TICKLE, JIM-CRACKY LITTLE LAUGH-GETTER OF A PUT-ON ON HOW PLOTS ARE HATCHED IN THE MARVEL ROOKERY! DON'T BE CHICKEN! SO WHAT IF IT IS A TURKEY! READ IT! IT'S ONLY THREE PSYCHEDELIC PAGES!
OH, NO--STAN AND JACK ARE AT IT AGAIN!
YEAH--BUT ON THE INSIDE, HE'LL BE A FUTURISTIC, MEDIEVAL PRIMITIVE WITH A CLEVER ANSWER FOR THE FORCES WHO WOULD OPPRESS THE WEAK--BUTCHERY!!
ALL YE WHO ENTER HERE--MUST BE OUT OF YOUR MIND!
SLOP ART
RETURN TO NASA
CAVIAR
PHEASANT
BON BONS
SALAMI
IRVING FORBLISH--THIS IS MOTHER--
WHY DID I EVER QUIT MY NICE, QUIET JOB AT THE BOILER FACTORY!
PROPERTY OF BUDGET-SLASHING DEPT.
SHORT CIGARS FOR TALL EDITORS
'NUFF SAID!
LAUNDRY
A HERO SHOULD LOOK LIKE A HERO--LIKE ME--RASCALLY ROY THOMAS--MUSCLE OF THE MIDWEST!
IT HAD TO HAPPEN! JOLLY JACK KIRBY NOT ONLY DREW THIS WHOLE FRENETIC FARCE, BUT HE ACTUALLY WROTE IT ALL BY HIS LONE-SOME! HIS PURPOSE, OF COURSE, IS TO SHOW THAT COMIC MAG CREATORS ARE JUST AS NORMAL, SANE, AND CONSERVATIVE AS ANY OTHER NUT!
INKED BY: FRANK GIACOIA
LETTERED BY: L.P GREGORY
WEPT OVER BY: STAN LEE


ALLOW ME TO ILLUSTRATE ON YOUR CONVENIENT BOARD! NOW, LET'S GIVE THE HERO A BUSHY BEARD UNDER WHICH HE CAN HIDE HIS COSTUME!
BUT THEN IT WILL LOOK LIKE HE'S WEARING A HAIRY COSTUME--!
YEAH, WELL, MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST GIVE THE HERO A RADIOACTIVE LIVER WHICH LIGHTS UP IN THE PRESENCE OF DANGER!
I KNOW! WE'LL MAKE HIS MOLECULES JINGLE WHEN A VILLAIN APPROACHES!
STOLEN FROM KID COLT
BUT, SMILIN' STAN LEE-- WON'T THAT RIDICULOUS NOISE BETRAY THE HERO?
NO, JACK "KING" KIRBY-- THAT HYMN TO LAW AND ORDER WILL RATTLE THE VILLAIN!
BUY MOTHER FURY'S HAND GRENADES
MEDDLER! THE RED SKULL SHALL HEAR OF THIS!
SHWEIN! YOU WOULD DEFY YOUR FUEHRER?
TAKE THAT!
ACHTUNG! MINEN!
MEMO
BANG!*
BANG!
*ANOTHER SCINTILLATINGLY SUBTLE SOUND-EFFECT BY SOPHISTICATED STAN.
FORBUSH AWARD FOR TOM-FOOLERY
WHY DON'T WE SETTLE FOR A BEATLE-BANGED BALLET-DANCER WHO BLINDS HIS FOES WITH PHOSPHORESCENT DANDRUFF?
I'LL BUY THAT! (A COMMUTER TRAIN TICKET IS SELLING CUT-RATE TODAY--AND I MUST HUSTLE TO BUY THAT!)
BUT AT THAT MOMENT, UNAWARE THAT DOCTOR DOOM'S NEW RAY HAS OVER-STIMULATED THEIR ENTHUSIASM--A CONTINGENT OF 2ND GENERATION MMMS'ERS ARRIVES...
IS THE THING FOR REAL?
WHERE'S SPIDEY?
BOY--WE'RE LUCKY WE CAN CHANGE COSTUMES AS FAST AS OUR CHARACTERS!
YEAH! I KNOW THEY LOVE US-- BUT IT PAYS TO KEEP THESE ANTI-BUFFETING SUITS HANDY!
THE HECK WITH THEM! I WANNA MEET AUNT PETUNIA!

THIS WAY, KEEPERS OF THE FAITH! OUR LINE-UP OF NOBLE CHARACTERS AWAIT YOU!
I SEE THOR!
ISN'T THAT IRON MAN?
WOW--I SEE SOLLY BROBSKY!
GO GET 'EM, GANG--OUR HEROES WILL GET FLABBY IF THEY DON'T GET A WORKOUT!
KLATTER! STOMP!
HALL OF HERCULEAN HEROES

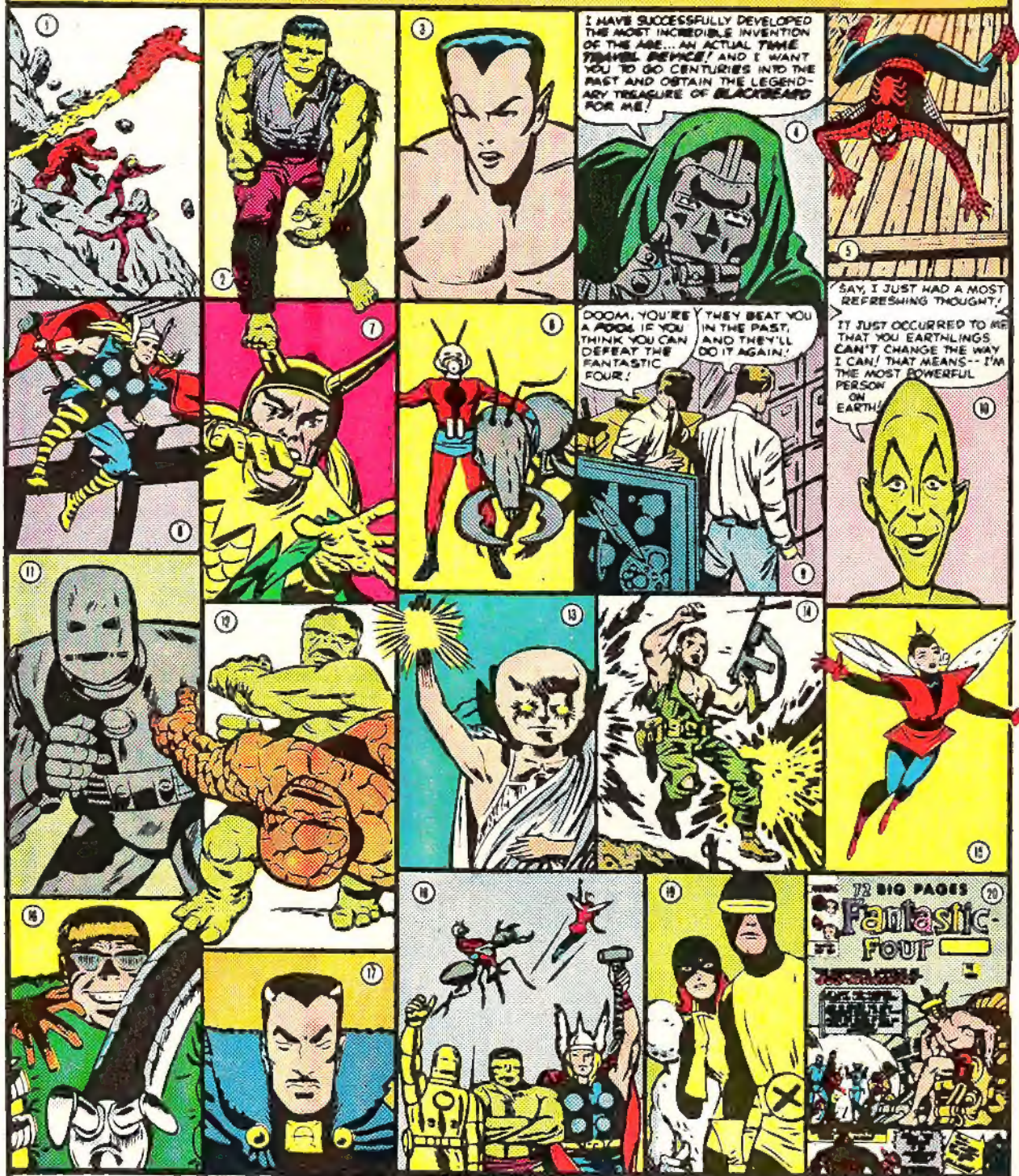
HAR-HAR-THOSE FRANTIC ONES WILL HAVE THE TIME OF THEIR LIVES! OUR HEROES ARE ON HOLIDAY--!
YEAH! THE ROOM'S FULL OF VILLAINS, RECUPERATING FROM THEIR MISDEEDS!
BLAM
SMASH!
KBOP!

IT MUST'VE BEEN GREAT FUN--WAIT! HERE COME--THE MELTER AND THE JUGGERNAUT!
LOOKS LIKE THOSE TIGERS GAVE THEM A HARD TIME! THEY'RE NOT HAPPY, STAN--AND, I THINK WE'VE RUN OUT OF PROTECTIVE COSTUMES--!

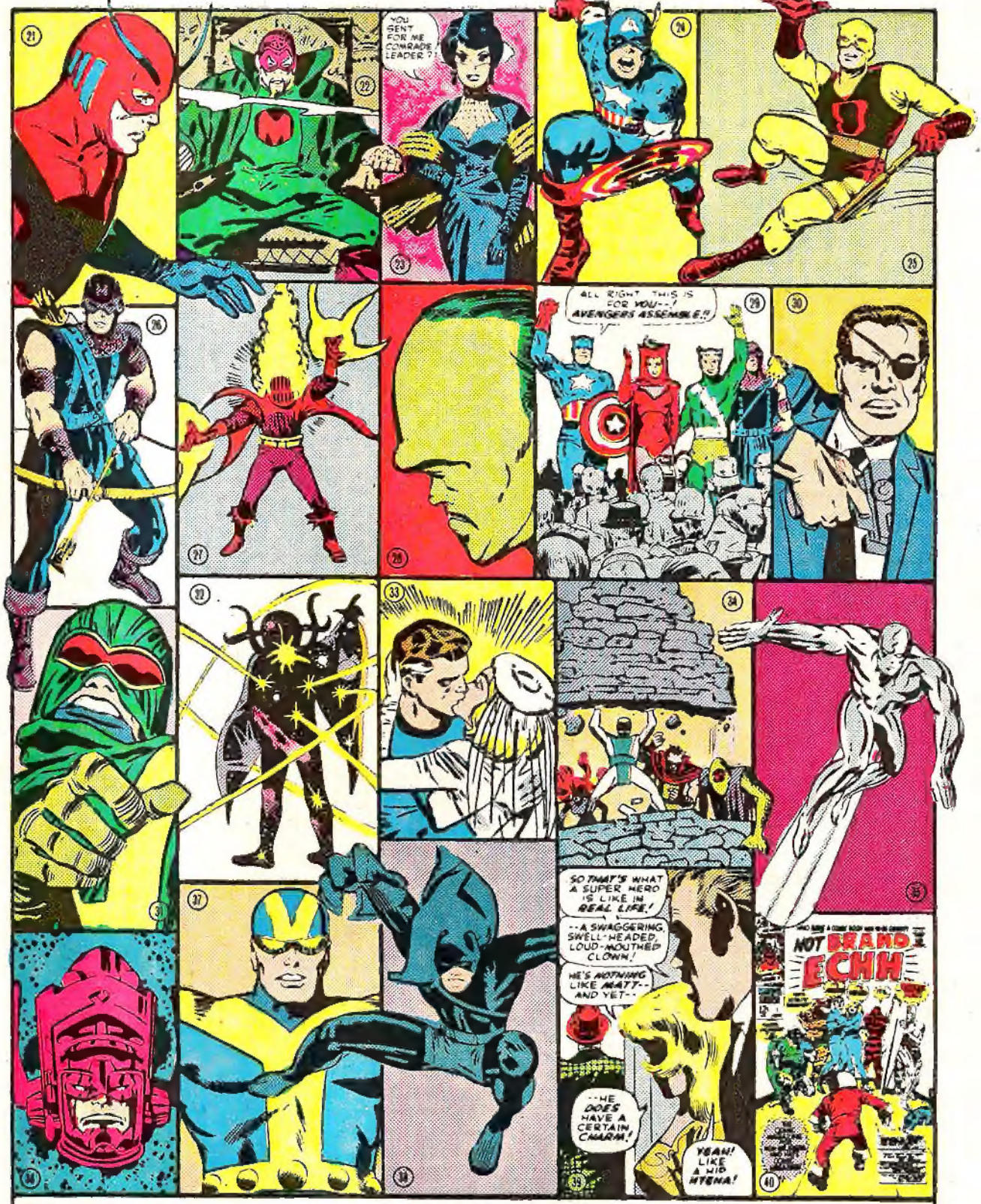

SEVERAL BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS LATER ...
I'M HAVING YOUR ART MATERIALS SENT OVER, JOLLY JACK--THE GOLDEN AGE OF MARVEL MUST CONTINUE IN FULL FLOWER!
'NUFF SAID, SMILIN' STAN!
IT ONLY HURTS WHEN WE LAUGH!
LITTLE MARVEL WHITE HOUSE
LITTLE ABSENTEE BULL PEN
STAN LEE THIRD DEGREE BURNS
JACK KIRBY SUNDRY BONE BREAKS
I'LL HAVE MY TURN AT THEM YET!
C'EST FIN!

Twenty-five years — hard to believe, isn't it? We've come a long way since 1961, and thought you'd like to join us as we look back on . . .

100 HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIRST 25


I HAVE SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOPED THE MOST INCREDIBLE INVENTION OF THE AGE... AN ACTUAL TIME TRAVEL DEVICE! AND I WANT YOU TO GO CENTURIES INTO THE PAST AND OBTAIN THE LEGENDARY TREASURE OF BLACKBEARD FOR ME!
DOOM, YOU'RE A FOOL IF YOU THINK YOU CAN DEFEAT THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
THEY BEAT YOU IN THE PAST, AND THEY'LL DO IT AGAIN!
SAY, I JUST HAD A MOST REFRESHING THOUGHT!
IT JUST OCCURRED TO ME THAT YOU EARTHLINGS CAN'T CHANGE THE WAY I CAN! THAT MEANS -- I'M THE MOST POWERFUL PERSON ON EARTH!
72 BIG PAGES
Fantastic Four

1) It all begins with FANTASTIC FOUR #1! 2) Ol' Greenskin joins in as THE INCREDIBLE HULK #1 hits the stands! 3) The savage Sub-Mariner resurfaces in FANTASTIC FOUR #4! 4) And if it's FF #5, this must be Doctor Doom! 5) AMAZING FANTASY #15! The origin of the ever-amazing Spider-Man! 6) Thunder roll! Lightning crash! The mighty Thor appears in JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #83! 7) And where Thor goes, can Loki be far behind? (JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #85) 8) Hank Pym goes into action as Ant-Man in TALES TO ASTONISH #35! 9) Stan Lee and Jack Kirby make their first appearance *within* a story in FANTASTIC FOUR #10! 10) The Impossible Man comes to Earth in FANTASTIC FOUR #11! 11) Tony Stark becomes Iron Man! (TALES OF SUSPENSE #39) 12) The Hulk fights the Thing for the first time in FANTASTIC FOUR #12! 13) The FF meet the Watcher in FANTASTIC FOUR #13! 14) SGT. FURY AND HIS HOWLING COMMANDOS #1! Wah-hoo! 15) Enter the best-dressed heroine in comics — the winsome Wasp! (TALES TO ASTONISH #44) 16) Doctor Octopus makes his appearance in SPIDER-MAN #3! 17) Dr. Strange debuts in STRANGE TALES #110! 18) Thor, Iron Man, the Hulk, Ant-Man and the Wasp unite as the Avengers! (AVENGERS #1) 19) The mutants arrive! It's the X-Men versus Magneto in X-MEN #1! 20) An annual tradition begins with the appearance of FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #1!


YOU SENT FOR ME COMRADE LEADER?
ALL RIGHT THIS IS FOR YOU--! AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!!
SO THAT'S WHAT A SUPER HERO IS LIKE IN REAL LIFE!
--A SWAGGERING, SWELL-HEADED, LOUD-MOUTHED CLOWN!
HE'S NOTHING LIKE MATT-- AND YET--
--HE DOES HAVE A CERTAIN CHARM!
YEAH! LIKE A MID HYENA!
NOT BRAND ECCH

21) Hank (Ant-Man) Pym becomes Giant-Man in TALES TO ASTONISH #49! 22) The malevolent Mandarin makes the scene in TALES OF SUSPENSE #50! 23) Russia's top spy, the Black Widow, takes on Iron Man in TALES OF SUSPENSE #52! 24) The living legend lives again! Captain America thaws out in AVENGERS #4! 25) The first appearance of the Man Without Fear! DAREDEVIL #1! 26) Hawkeye tries to be a hero, but becomes a villain thanks to the Black Widow! (TALES OF SUSPENSE #57) 27) Introducing . . . the dread Dormammu! (STRANGE TALES #126) 28) Gamma rays turn a foreign spy into the lethal Leader in TALES TO ASTONISH #63! 29) The old order changeth! Captain America leads Hawkeye, Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch as they become the new Avengers in AVENGERS #16! 30) Nick Fury heads up the newly-formed spy agency S.H.I.E.L.D. — 31) — and Hydra's not too happy about it! (STRANGE TALES #135) 32) Dr. Strange meets Eternity in STRANGE TALES #138! 33) Wedding bells ring for Reed and Sue—and just about the entire Marvel Universe attends! (FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #3) 34) Among us are . . . the Inhumans, starting in FANTASTIC FOUR #44! 35) The sight of the Silver Surfer heralds— 36) —the coming of Galactus! (FANTASTIC FOUR #48) 37) Hank (Ant-Man/Giant-Man) Pym becomes Goliath! (AVENGERS #28) 38) The Black Panther skulks through the pages of FANTASTIC FOUR #52! 39) Mike Murdock, Daredevil's fictitious secret identity and Matt Murdock's supposed twin brother . . . "dies!" (DAREDEVIL #41) 40) NOT BRAND ECCH #1—and the debut of Forbush-Man!

41) Captain Mar-vell comes to Earth in MARVEL SUPER HEROES #12! 42) Dane Whitman becomes the Black Knight in AVENGERS #48! 43) 1000 years in the future. Earth's last hope is the Guardians of the Galaxy! (MARVEL SUPER HEROES #18) 44) Enter the Vision, in AVENGERS #57! 45) It's a boy! FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #6 heralds the birth of Franklin Richards! 46) Hank (Ant-Man Giant-Man Goliath) Pym becomes Yellowjacket in AVENGERS #59— 47) —and marries the Wasp in AVENGERS #60! 48) Captain America gets a new partner—the Falcon! (CAPTAIN AMERICA #117) 49) Robert E. Howard's famed barbarian comes to Marvel in CONAN #1! 50) Spider-Man battles drugs—and the story changes the Comics Code itself! (AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #96) 51) They're brave! They're bold! They're the Squadron Supreme, debuting in AVENGERS #85! 52) The opening shots of the Kree-Skrull War are fired in AVENGERS#89! 53) Doc Samson becomes a name to reckon with in HULK #141! 54) Dr. Strange! The Hulk! The Sub-Mariner! They're the dynamic Defenders, premiering in MARVEL FEATURE #1! 55) He used to be Him—but now he's Warlock! (MARVEL PREMIERE #1) 56) He never drinks . . . wine. (TOMB OF DRACULA #1) 57) Luke Cage goes into business in HERO FOR HIRE #1! 58) Cap battles the madman that took his place in the Fifties! (CAPTAIN AMERICA #154) 59) The first appearance of Thanos, the man who loved Death! (IRON MAN #55) 60) 21st Century Earth enslaved? Not if Killraven can help it! (AMAZING ADVENTURES #18)

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GO, THEN! GET OUT! ALL OF YOU! BUT I'M NOT GOING! I STARTED THIS, AND I'LL SEE IT THROUGH!
YOU CAN WALK OFF-- BUT THE WORLD STILL NEEDS CHAMPIONS!
SCOTT!
JEAN!

61) Gwen Stacey, Spider-Man's girlfriend, dies in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #121. 62) The Avengers go to war—against the Defenders! (AVENGERS #116 and DEFENDERS #8) 63) The Punisher appears—and criminals everywhere renew their life insurance! (AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #129) 64) Iron Fist debuts in MARVEL PREMIERE #15! 65) Deathlok is brought to life (sort of) in ASTONISHING TALES #25! 66) Crystal and Quicksilver exchange vows, in front of an all-star guest list, in FANTASTIC FOUR #150! 67) The first appearance of Wolverine, in HULK #180! 68) The Vision marries the Scarlet Witch and Mantis marries . . . a tree (again, sort of)! (GIANT-SIZE AVENGERS #4) 69) Howard the Duck waddles your way in, of all places, FEAR #19! 70) They're new and boy are they different! The second generation of X-Men appear in GIANT-SIZE X-MEN #1! 71) WEREWOLF BY NIGHT #32: The coming of Moon Knight! 72) The Angel, Iceman, Hercules, the Black Widow and the Ghost Rider band together in CHAMPIONS #1! 73) The Eternals are here, along with the Deviants and the Celestials, in ETERNALS #1! 74) Women Who Walk On Walls I: The first Spider-Woman debuts in MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #32! 75) The Champions break up—becoming Marvel's only super team to disband due to poor financial management, in PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #17. 76) In an age of monsters, he was mightiest of all! Devil Dinosaur and Moon Boy strut their stuff in DEVIL DINOSAUR #1! 77) Alpha flight stands on guard for Canada, beginning in X-MEN #120! 78) THE SHE-HULK #1: Notice the family resemblance? 79) The emphasis is on SF and fantasy in EPIC ILLUSTRATED #1! 80) Phoenix dies to spare the universe in X-MEN #137!

81) Marvel's first direct sales title: DAZZLER #1! 82) Elektra debuts in DAREDEVIL #168! 83) Tragedy and triumph—THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN MARVEL marks the birth of Marvel's Graphic Novel line! 84) Meet Charles Xavier's *third* class—the New Mutants, in MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVEL #4! 85) There's a new Captain Marvel in town—as of SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #16! 86) DREADSTAR #1 hits the stands, and the Epic Comics line is under way! 87) Hank (Ant-Man Giant-Man Goliath Yellowjacket) Pym becomes just plain Hank Pym again in AVENGERS #230! 88) How could we leave this one out? The first issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE! 89) That's not Tony Stark: Rhodey dons the armor for the first time in IRON MAN #170! 90) G.I. JOE #1—introducing a bunch of real American heroes! 91) One of the most successful series in decades begins with MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS #1! 92) Kids can be heroes too! (POWER PACK #1) 93) The Avengers go west, in WEST COAST AVENGERS Limited Series #1! 94) Women Who Walk On Walls II: The new Spider-Woman appears in SECRET WARS #7! 95) Spidey gets a new costume—one with an appetite! (SECRET WARS #8) 96) Odin is lost—and Asgard will never be the same again! (THOR #353) 97) Comics for kids: the Star Comics line begins! 98) Loki's most nefarious scheme: Thor becomes the Frog of Thunder in THOR #364! 99) The original X-Men return in X-FACTOR #1! 100) Marvel turns 25 and unveils its New Universe! You ain't seen nothin' yet!

G.I. JOE © 1986 Hasbro-Bradley, Inc.

SPOILER WARNING: If you don't want to know some of the secrets and surprises coming up in your favorite Marvel comics—don't read this article!! You've been warned!

MARVEL A to Z

by **Dwight Jon Zimmerman**

Here it is! Our second annual installment of the most thorough Marvel preview ever! We went after the news—and we got it! No editor, writer, or artist was safe from us, as we tracked 'em down and grilled 'em mercilessly. And for your enjoyment, here are the fruits of our ordeal—an alphabetical listing of all the Marvel, Epic and Star Comics, with news of note, facts about future free-for-alls, romantic revelations, cataclysmic changes and assorted amazements.

Enjoy!

Alpha Flight™

Bill Mantlo, writer; **David Ross**, penciler. 75¢.

"There will be lots of tension going on in **ALPHA FLIGHT**," **Bill Mantlo** said. "Issue #40 will feature the wedding of **the Sub-Mariner** to **Marrina**. **Box** will get a very bad case of the bends while fighting in Atlantis and the question will be whether or not he can be cured. We will also see him become increasingly emotionally unstable, especially with his relationship with **Aurora**. This will have dire consequences for **Alpha Flight**.

"**Aurora**, herself, will suffer a relapse of her dual persona with **Jeanne-Marie**.

"**Langkowski** will return, but he won't like what has happened to him. And everybody, especially **Aurora**, will be shocked at what he has become!

"**Heather** will become increasingly attracted to **Mr. Jeffries**, and **Puck**, who loves **Heather**, will become increasingly disaffected.

"**Shaman** will become more and more aloof as he progresses towards a state similar to that of godhood.

"**Snowbird** wants to leave life with the humans and basically go live with the gods.

"**Northstar** will contract a strange and mysterious disease which will affect his immune system. And as **Northstar's** disease gets worse, **Alpha Flight** will do everything they can to save him."

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

Tom DeFalco, writer; **Ron Frenz**, penciler; **Brett Breeding**, inker. 75¢.

Assistant Editor **Adam Blaustein** said, "After #281, things really start hopping for **Spidey**. He will run into **X-Factor** in #282, and #'s 283 and 284 are going to feature the start of huge gang war upheavals in the New York area due to the mysterious disappearance of **the Kingpin**. This is all going to come to a head with some really major revelations about a certain character whom everyone has been wanting to know the secret identity of for a long time. On that, I can't say any more.

"As for the personal life of **Peter Parker**, a lot of things will be happening, but not very much can be revealed now. The situation between **Peter** and **Mary Jane Watson** will come to a head.

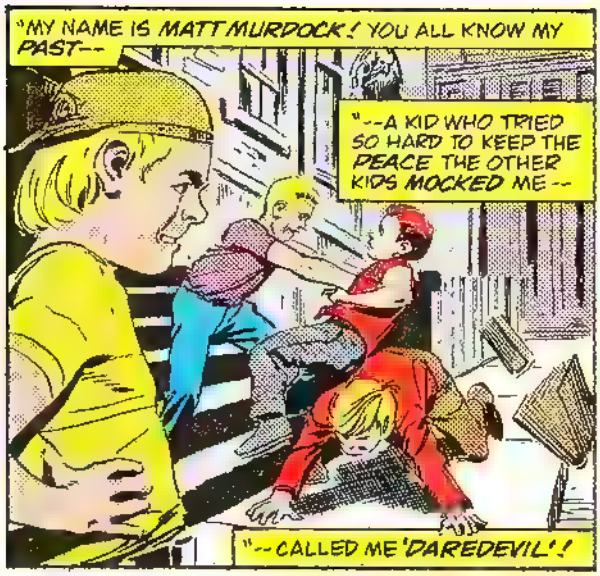
"For the next year, the theme is: *surprises!*"

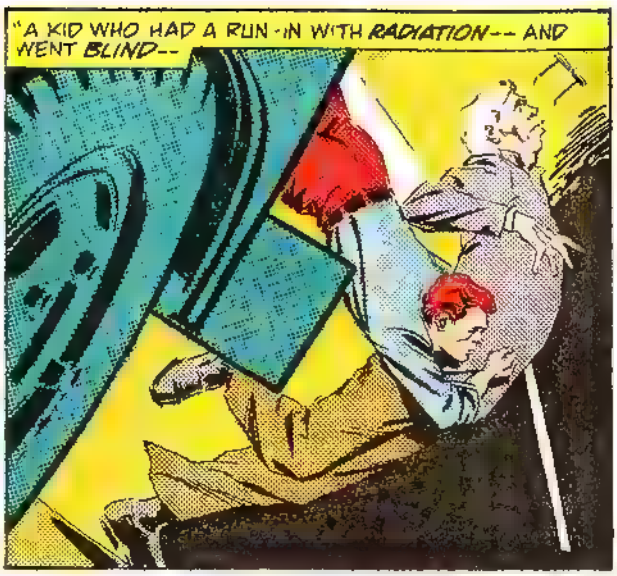
ANIMAX™

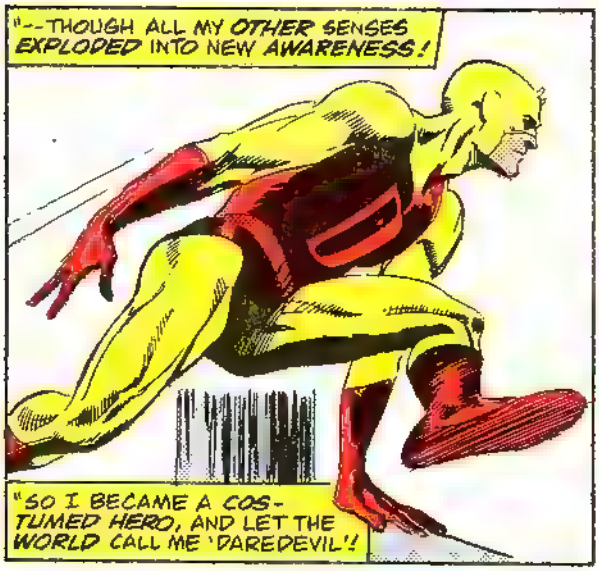
Walter Simonson, writer, **Steve Purcell**, penciler. A Star comic. 75¢.

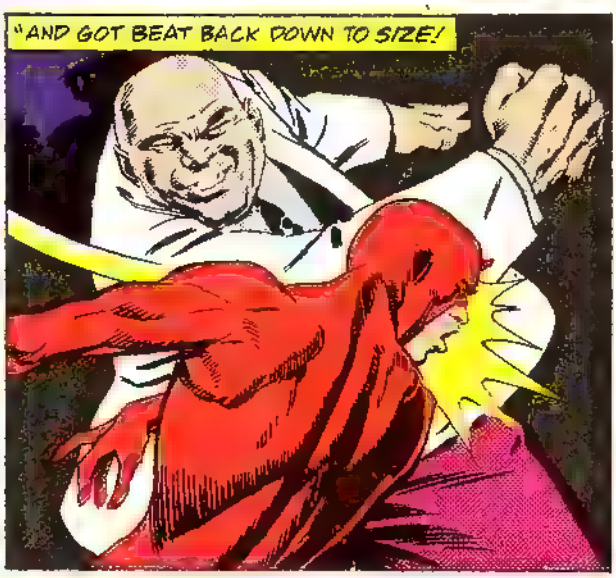
Of this science fiction adventure series set in the environmentally-ravaged 25th Century, **Walter Simonson** said, "It is a series based on a new line of toys. Basically **the Animax** and their drivers are guardians of the highways linking the city-states which are the last bastions of civilization. **The Animax** were created through a new technology called Reincarnation which combined the living essences of animals on the endangered species list with specially designed vehicles, thus each animal was born again as part living animal and part car.

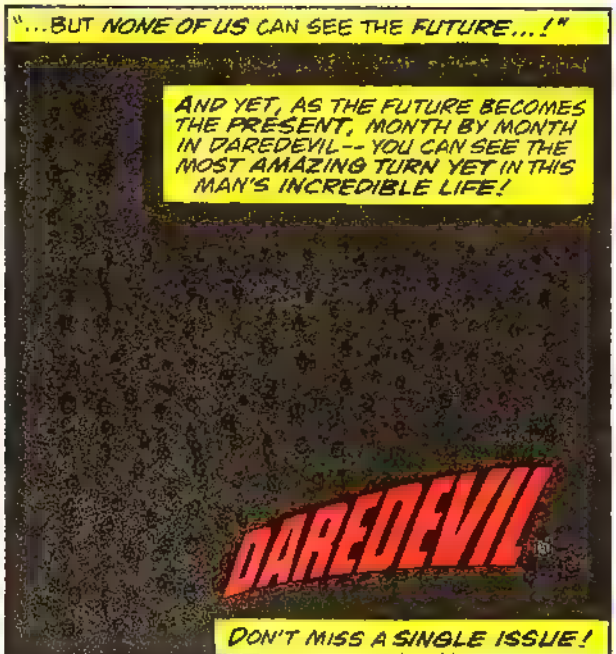
"Earth is now spinning on a yearly cycle so that it always presents the same face to the sun. The result is that there is


"MY NAME IS MATT MURDOCK! YOU ALL KNOW MY PAST--
"--A KID WHO TRIED SO HARD TO KEEP THE PEACE THE OTHER KIDS MOCKED ME--
"--CALLED ME 'DAREDEVIL'!








"...BUT NONE OF US CAN SEE THE FUTURE...!"
AND YET, AS THE FUTURE BECOMES THE PRESENT, MONTH BY MONTH IN DAREDEVIL-- YOU CAN SEE THE MOST AMAZING TURN YET IN THIS MAN'S INCREDIBLE LIFE!
DAREDEVIL
DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE!

WRITER: STEVE ENGLEHART ★ PENCILER: LOUIS WILLIAMS ★ INKER: AL WILLIAMSON

a Lite-Side and a Nite-Side. Dividing these two sides is a huge crevasse called the Crack of Doom. Connecting the two sides is the Bridge of Doom.

"**The Animax** and their drivers are the defenders of the Lite-Side. Their enemies are the evil **Carnivors**, ridden by the merciless **Motor Mutants**. **The Motor Mutants** want to destroy all life on the Lite- Side.

"The reference material that I got is very detailed and has a lot of nice light touches. I've been given a lot of freedom to create my stories. I hope to make **ANIMAX** a lot of fun."

Roger Stern, writer; **John Buscema**, penciler; **Tom Palmer**, inker. 75¢.

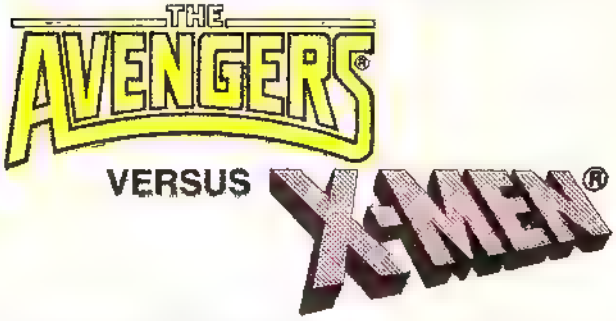
"There may be more interplay between **the Avengers** and **the Fantastic Four** now that I'm writing both books," **Roger Stern** said. "The groups could be fighting each other's villains.

"In issue #273 we will see **Baron Zemo**, the son of the original **Baron Zemo**, form a new **Masters of Evil**. This **Zemo** has learned from the mistakes his father has made and as a result he is going to wind up recruiting an army of super-villains to destroy **the Avengers**. **The Avengers** will be forced to pull in a number of their reserve members as a result.

"There will probably be a change in leadership after the **Masters of Evil** storyline. At this point it could go either way among three people. There might even be a battle for the leadership of **the Avengers**.

"**The Avengers** will be establishing a new headquarters outside of New York City. And there will be a coming to terms with the federal government regarding **Avengers** priority.

"I don't know about new members joining just yet. There will probably be some old members returning to active status, though I can't say who they will be right now."



Roger Stern, writer; **Mike Zeck**, penciler; **Joe Rubinstein**, inker. 4-issue Limited Series. 75¢.

"The United States government is very concerned about **Magneto**," **Roger** told us, "because they'd like to get him back in the courtroom to face the charges brought up in the '*Trial of Magneto*' story in **THE X-MEN**. But the Soviets would rather just kill him. So when **Magneto** and some of **the X-Men** head to Southeast Asia to search for important information **Magneto** needs in the wreckage of Asteroid M, the government asks **the Avengers** to keep **Magneto** safe for his eventual trial."

Given **the X-Men's** predilection for getting into trouble, this will be no easy task. Particularly, **Roger** tells us, "when **the Soviet Super-Soldiers** show up, on a mission for *their* government." What mission? Well, that would be telling.

David Michelinie, writer; **Bret Blevins**, artist. An Epic Comic. 6-issue Limited Series. Direct sales only. Baxter paper. $1.50.

"The fifth issue of **BOZZ** will feature a British explorer who feels that he has been betrayed by British royalty and as a result is determined to bring the royal house to its knees," **David Michelinie** said of the unusual Limited Series about an alien stranded in Victorian England who becomes a private investigator with the help of a sassy streetwalker. "The explorer's plan involves a mysterious stone of great power in the colonial territory of Southwest Africa, and an amazing vehicle that flies. The story will also have several major developments in the relationships of two of the major characters. The events in this issue will lead into the sixth, and final, issue. It will be our first story taking place outside of England. **Bozz** and his friends **Mandy**, **Salem** and **Fitzroy** will head to Africa in search of something—I'm not telling you what—which could be vital to **Bozz's** future."

Mark Gruenwald, writer; **Paul Neary**, penciler; **Dennis Janke**, inker. 75¢.

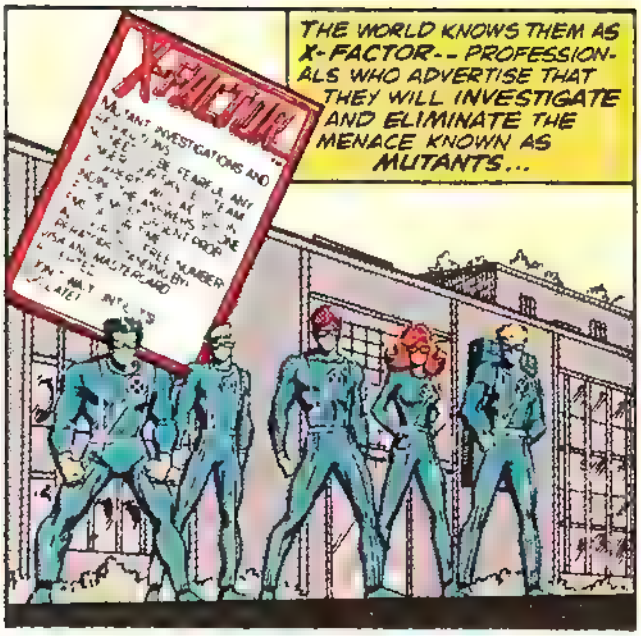
"**CAPTAIN AMERICA** #324 brings back, by popular request, **Cap's** former partner, **Nomad**," **Mark Gruenwald** said. "**Nomad** has been trying to make a life of his own and conflict arises when **Cap** sees what kind of super hero **Nomad** has become.

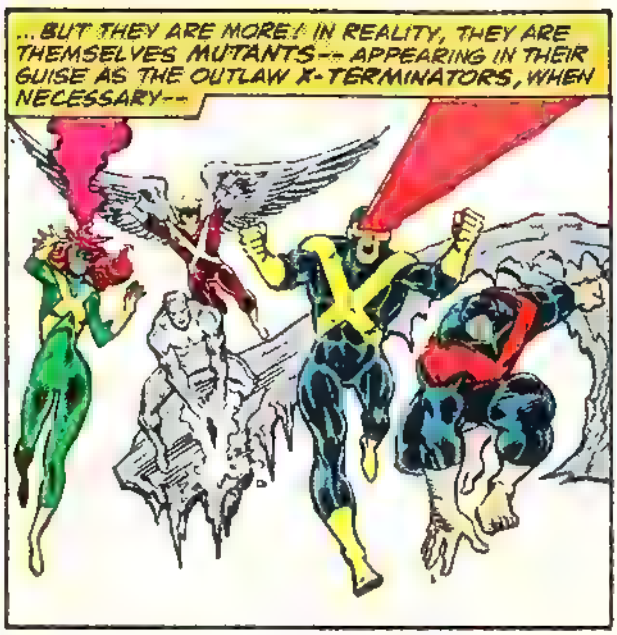
"From there I go into a multi-issue storyline involving a super-soldier called **Man o' War** and the secret civilization underneath America that created him. The outcome from this confrontation will change not only **Captain America's** life, but also his costume."

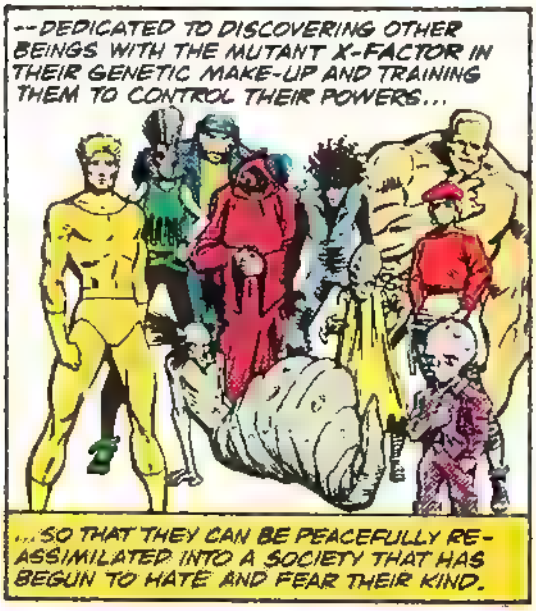
Stan Kay, writer; **Howard Post**, penciler; **Roberta Edelman**, inker. A Star comic. 75¢.

High above the everyday world and its troubles is the snuggly cloud country called **Care-A-Lot**, home of **the Care Bears**.

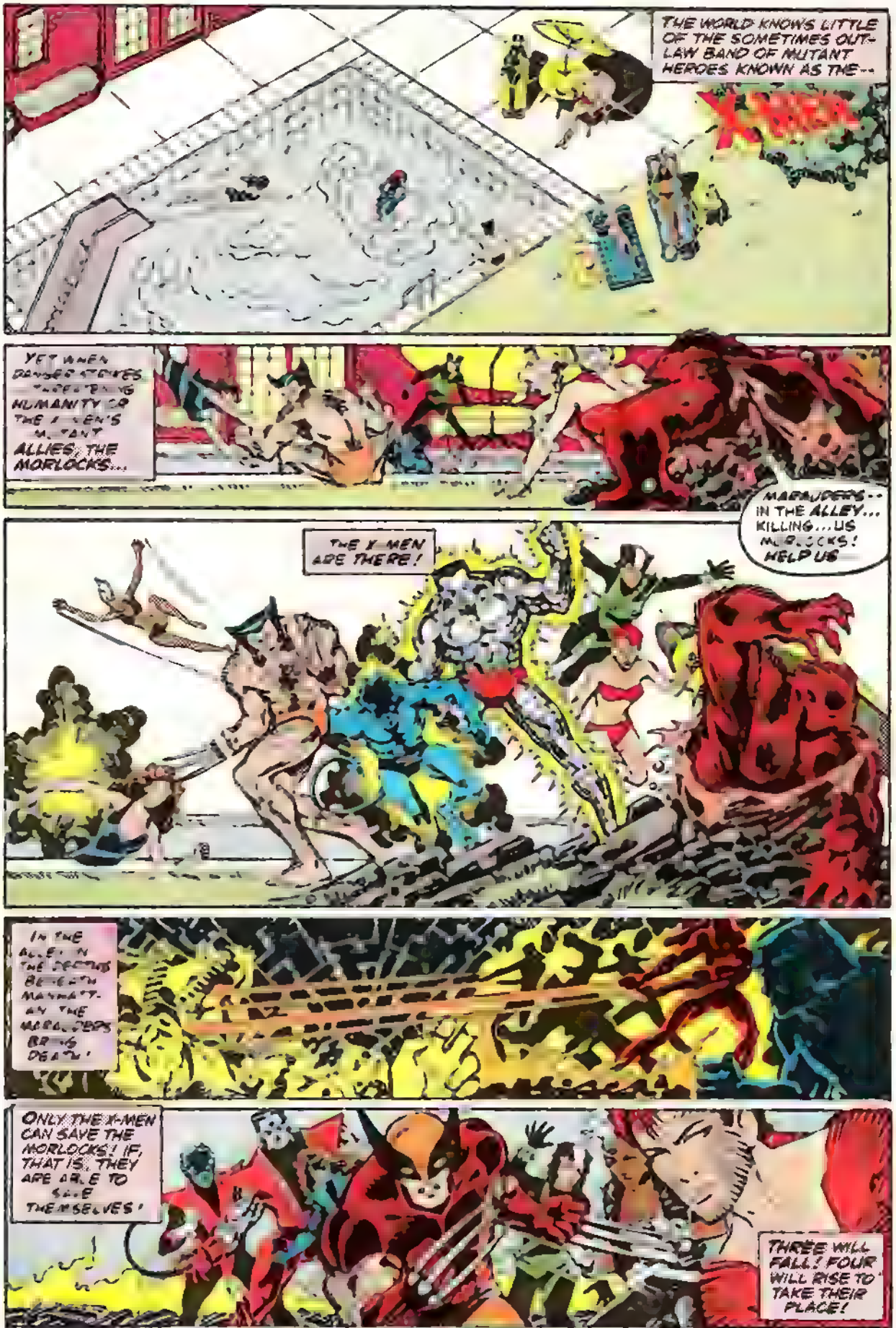
Riding the Rainbow Express, **the Care Bears** travel to any place on Earth where people don't care, or where trouble has made people care less about being happy and

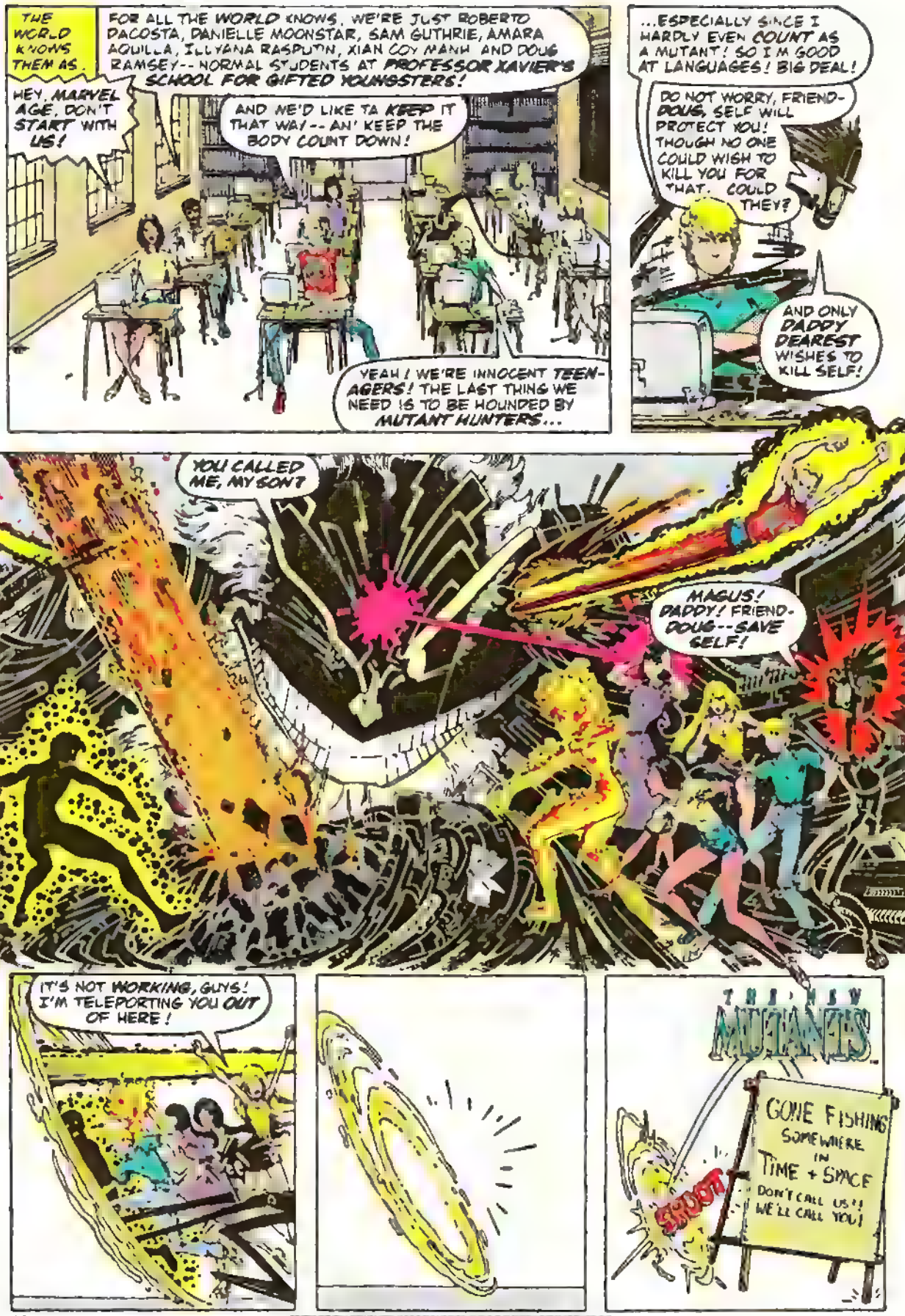

THE WORLD KNOWS THEM AS X-FACTOR-- PROFESSIONALS WHO ADVERTISE THAT THEY WILL INVESTIGATE AND ELIMINATE THE MENACE KNOWN AS MUTANTS...
X-FACTOR


...BUT THEY ARE MORE! IN REALITY, THEY ARE THEMSELVES MUTANTS-- APPEARING IN THEIR GUISE AS THE OUTLAW X-TERMINATORS, WHEN NECESSARY--


--DEDICATED TO DISCOVERING OTHER BEINGS WITH THE MUTANT X-FACTOR IN THEIR GENETIC MAKE-UP AND TRAINING THEM TO CONTROL THEIR POWERS...
...SO THAT THEY CAN BE PEACEFULLY RE-ASSIMILATED INTO A SOCIETY THAT HAS BEGUN TO HATE AND FEAR THEIR KIND.

WRITER: LOUISE SIMONSON ★ PENCILER: TOM MORGAN ★ INKER: ART NICHOLS


THE WORLD KNOWS LITTLE OF THE SOMETIMES OUTLAW BAND OF MUTANT HEROES KNOWN AS THE--
X-MEN
YET WHEN DANGER STRIKES THREATENING HUMANITY OR THE X-MEN'S MUTANT ALLIES, THE MORLOCKS...
MARAUDERS--IN THE ALLEY... KILLING...US MORLOCKS! HELP US
THE X-MEN ARE THERE!
IN THE ALLEY, IN THE DEPTHS BENEATH MANHATTAN, THE MARAUDERS BRING DEATH!
ONLY THE X-MEN CAN SAVE THE MORLOCKS! IF, THAT IS, THEY ARE ABLE TO SAVE THEMSELVES!
THREE WILL FALL! FOUR WILL RISE TO TAKE THEIR PLACE!


THE WORLD KNOWS THEM AS...
FOR ALL THE WORLD KNOWS, WE'RE JUST ROBERTO DACOSTA, DANIELLE MOONSTAR, SAM GUTHRIE, AMARA AQUILLA, ILLYANA RASPUTIN, XIAN COY MANH AND DOUG RAMSEY--NORMAL STUDENTS AT PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS!
HEY, MARVEL AGE, DON'T START WITH US!
AND WE'D LIKE TA KEEP IT THAT WAY!--AN' KEEP THE BODY COUNT DOWN!
YEAH! WE'RE INNOCENT TEENAGERS! THE LAST THING WE NEED IS TO BE HOUNDED BY MUTANT HUNTERS...
...ESPECIALLY SINCE I HARDLY EVEN COUNT AS A MUTANT! SO I'M GOOD AT LANGUAGES! BIG DEAL!
DO NOT WORRY, FRIEND-DOUG, SELF WILL PROTECT YOU! THOUGH NO ONE COULD WISH TO KILL YOU FOR THAT. COULD THEY?
AND ONLY DADDY DEAREST WISHES TO KILL SELF!
YOU CALLED ME, MY SON?
MAGUS! DADDY! FRIEND-DOUG--SAVE SELF!
IT'S NOT WORKING, GUYS! I'M TELEPORTING YOU OUT OF HERE!
THE NEW MUTANTS
GONE FISHING SOMEWHERE IN TIME + SPACE
DON'T CALL US!! WE'LL CALL YOU!

WRITER: LOUISE SIMONSON ★ ARTIST: ART ADAMS

care more about making others unhappy. Using the individual powers each **Care Bear** has been blessed with, **the Care Bears** work to right any wrong and to bring the sunshine back to everyone's life. And if the trouble is greater than any one **Care Bear** can stand, they band together to create the ultimate caring weapon: the **Care Bear** Stare!

For the next year, it looks like the world's troubles are going to get greater. That means that **the Care Bears** are going to be as busy as a bunch of beavers.

CHUCK NORRIS KARATE KOMMANDOS tm

Jo Duffy, writer; **Steve Ditko**, penciler; **Ken Steacy**, inker. A Star comic. 75¢.

"This is a Star comic based on the **Chuck Norris** animated TV series," **Jo Duffy** said. "It is going to be half kung-fu, half **James Bond** and all **Chuck Norris**. In addition to **Chuck** and his team, two American teenagers, a very honorable samurai from a discredited family, a sumo wrestler, a Korean street orphan and a pet wolf, we will see a whole array of gadgetry, motor vehicles and technological hardware. The series will contain self-contained, single-issue stories that will be filled with a lot of action and adventure."

CLASSIC X-MEN tm

Chris Claremont, writer; **Dave Cockrum**, penciler; **Bob McLeod**, inker. 75¢.

This is a special reprint series of **THE X-MEN**, chronologically re-presenting the stories beginning with **GIANT-SIZE X-MEN #1**. An added attraction to the series will be the inclusion of new pages of story and art that will be added to the reprinted tales, to be done by the original team of **Chris**, **Dave** and **Bob**, and special new short stories written by **Chris** and drawn by **John Bolton** that will be tied to events that happen in the reprinted tale.

CLOAK AND DAGGER

Bill Mantlo, writer; **Bret Blevins**, penciler; **Terry Austin**, inker. 75¢.

"**Cloak** and **Dagger** will be traveling the world in their quest to stop the flow of drugs into New York City," **Bill Mantlo** said. "In issue #9, they will be in West Germany. #10 finds them in Latveria, meeting **Doctor Doom**. Issue #11 I think will take place in Israel and will involve Palestinian terrorists. And having said that, I'm going to try and make it an upbeat issue. #12 will take place in what is called the Golden Triangle of Indochina where many of the heroin poppies are grown and harvested. And it will be here that they will discover how impossible their quest to knock out the drug trade at its source is.

"I think **Cloak** and **Dagger** will find out that they can't solve the problem until they can erase the need for drugs. Thus they will return to New York City and try to help those who are in immediate need there with the best of their ability.

"I will also try and bring **Cloak** and **Dagger** more into the Marvel Universe, since I've kept them pretty much out of the mainstream for the past couple of years. So we can expect them to encounter various groups like **the New Mutants** and **the X-Men**. The question of whether or not **Cloak** and **Dagger** are mutants will pop up. And there will be an exploration into what kind of powers the two have and where they come from."

THE COMET MAN tm

Bill Mumy and **Miguel Ferrer**, writers, **Kelley Jones**, penciler; **Gerry Talaoc**, inker. 6-issue Limited Series. 75¢.

"**Dr. Stephen Beckley**, investigating Halley's Comet as it passes close to Earth, is out in space when the comet veers off course," says **Bill Mumy**. "The result is that **Dr. Beckley** is vaporized." But the scientist is reconstructed, **Bill** tells us, by a mysterious race within the comet, and is now gifted with incredible mental powers.

When he returns to Earth, the scientist will run afoul of such menaces as **the Bridge**, a covert intelligence agency, and the ever-incredible **Hulk**. During these clashes, he'll get a name and reputation for himself as **The Comet Man**. However, **Bill** notes, "he's a reluctant hero. And it's going to take him a long time to learn how to manifest his abilities"—abilities which stagger the minds of such geniuses as **Reed Richards** with their incredible potential.

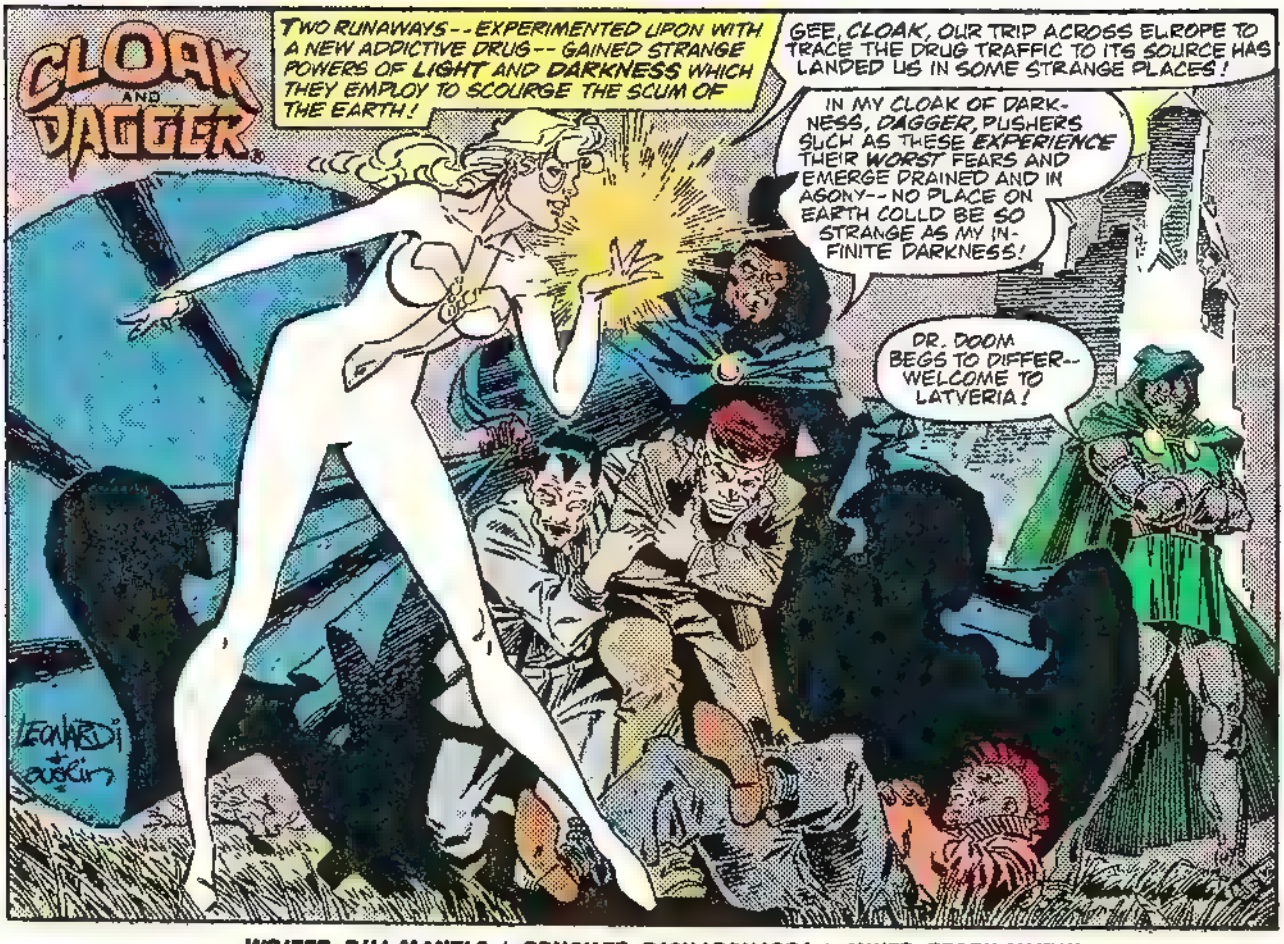
The six-issue Limited Series is designed to look and read very much like a Golden Age comic, with that "outlook of adventure and fun," according to Assistant Editor **Terry Kavanagh**. "However, it'll be tied very much to present Marvel continuity."

CONAN® THE BARBARIAN

Jim Owsley, writer; **John Buscema**, penciler; **Bob Camp**, inker. 75¢.

Jim Owsley promises **CONAN** fans a lengthy, intrigue-laden storyline entitled "Resurrection," beginning in #187. It will feature, among other things, the formation of a group of friends who will be accompanying **Conan** for a while; the loss of the throne of El Shah Maddoc for its ruler, **Jahti**, the youngster that **Conan** has been championing; and the return of **the Devourer of Souls**, a villain from **Conan's** past who's been seen in **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN**.

"What all this does," **Jim** says, "is play into **Conan** creator **Robert E. Howard's** original continuity. As **Howard** outlined, **Conan** and some friends worked for a while for a rebel king of Koth, who was never named. So what we're going to do is create a group of people who will side with **Conan** and create the whole situation surrounding **Conan's** employment with the rebel king. This storyline will play out through 1986 and into 1987 before we lead into a new **Robert E. Howard** adaptation."


CLOAK AND DAGGER
TWO RUNAWAYS--EXPERIMENTED UPON WITH A NEW ADDICTIVE DRUG--GAINED STRANGE POWERS OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS WHICH THEY EMPLOY TO SCOURGE THE SCUM OF THE EARTH!
GEE, CLOAK, OUR TRIP ACROSS EUROPE TO TRACE THE DRUG TRAFFIC TO ITS SOURCE HAS LANDED US IN SOME STRANGE PLACES!
IN MY CLOAK OF DARKNESS, DAGGER, PUSHERS SUCH AS THESE EXPERIENCE THEIR WORST FEARS AND EMERGE DRAINED AND IN AGONY--NO PLACE ON EARTH COLLD BE SO STRANGE AS MY INFINITE DARKNESS!
DR. DOOM BEGS TO DIFFER--WELCOME TO LATVERIA!
LEONARDI + AUSTIN

WRITER: BILL MANTLO ★ PENCILER: RICK LEONARDI ★ INKER: TERRY AUSTIN

CONAN THE KING™

Don Kraar, writer; **Judith Hunt**, penciler. $1.25.

As for what people can expect from the world's most famous barbarian during his reign of Aquilonia, **Don Kraar** passed to us an excerpt from a letter written by **Conan's** creator, **Robert E. Howard**:

"He was, I think, king of Aquilonia for many years, in a turbulent and unique reign, when the Hyborian civilization had reached its most magnificent high tide, and every king had imperial ambitions. At first **Conan** fought on the defensive, but I am of the opinion that at last he was forced into wars of aggression as a matter of self-preservation. Whether he succeeded in conquering a world-wide empire, or perished in the attempt, I do not know."

DAKOTA NORTH INVESTIGATIONS

NEW YORK PARIS ROME TOKYO

Martha Thomases, writer, **Tony Salmons**, artist. 75¢.

Private investigator **Dakota North** and her twelve-year-old brother **Ricky** spiral into truly bizarre and gruesome predicaments on the fringes of the international fashion scene. Stranglers in the W.C. of the SST; gunmen in the Pompidou Center; arcane weaponry on the Orient Express! If hardware and underwear are your *tasse de thé*, **Dakota North** will make your day!

DAREDEVIL®

Steve Englehart, writer; **Louis Williams**, penciler; **Al Williamson**, inker 75¢.

"I plan to get rid of most, if not all, of **Daredevil's** supporting characters. I feel that after all that **Daredevil** went through, a logical thing for him to do would be for him to leave New York City and start a new life someplace else," **Steve Englehart** said.

"I am considering bringing **the Black Widow** back into the series and having the two of them go to San Francisco for a while. **Daredevil** has helped **the Black Widow** out a lot in the past and this would be a chance for her now to repay the favor.

"If **Daredevil** does go to San Francisco as I plan, then it is quite possible that he will join **the West Coast Avengers**.

"What I want to make clear, in any event, is that I totally respect what **Frank Miller** did. I want to build from where **Frank** left the series and keep it on the realistic level that he established. So that even though **Daredevil** might join **the West Coast Avengers**, it still wouldn't change the tone **Frank** set."

DOCTOR STRANGE®

Peter B. Gillis, writer; **Chris Warner**, penciler; **Randy Emberlin**, inker. 75¢

"**Doctor Strange** will be losing a lot of things in the next few months, including his Greenwich Village mansion which will be stolen, along with everything in it, by a sorcerer from another dimension," **Peter Gillis** said. "Also, you will see a 'new' temporary **Doctor Strange** within the next few issues for reasons that will become clear.

"**Clea, Doctor Strange's** former love and disciple, will be showing up late in the year. And **Wong**, who is one of the oldest supporting characters in the Marvel Universe and probably the most unknown supporting character, will get a lot of attention focused on him.

"**Topaz's** soul will become whole. When that happens, she will become an entirely different person. **Topaz** will become a very powerful empath and she will tell Doctor Strange things about himself that he does not want to hear.

"The theme for my stories will be: **Doctor Strange** encounters Love. Can a mystic also be a romantic? Dare a mystic love? By rights he should be able to, but as we will see, things do get in the way. Also, what will the power of Love have over the power of his enchantments? Complicating it all will be the fact that **Doctor Strange** will fall in love with somebody that he is forbidden to fall in love with."

STAR WARS DROIDS™

Dave Manak, writer; **John Romita**, penciler; **Al Williamson**, inker. A Star comic. 75¢.

Some say that without the quirky antics of the android **C-3PO** and robot **R2-D2**, the *STAR WARS* trilogy of movies would not have been as much fun, nor half as exciting.

At Star, **DROIDS** has quickly captured the imagination of its readers with out-of-this world adventures. For the upcoming year, editor **Sid Jacobson** said that adventures and mis-adventures of **R2-D2** and **C-3PO** will take them farther and farther afield in response to reader demand. In fact, it was because of such an outpouring of mail that there is the **DROIDS/EWOKS** cross-over, now in full swing.

What happens after that, **Sid** wouldn't say. But he assured us that everything the readers have been clamoring for, they'll get—and then some!

ELEKTRA™

Frank Miller, writer; **Bill Sienkiewicz**, artist. 6-issue Limited Series. An Epic comic. Direct sales only. Hudson paper. For Mature Readers. $1.50.

This Limited Series answers the questions of what happened to **Elektra** after she left the evil secret organization the Hand and before her reappearance in **Daredevil's** life.

The story will revolve around the conflict **Elektra** had with the superspy network, S.H.I.E.L.D., and with S.H.I.E.L.D. Agent **Garrett**.

It is a story that could change everything you've ever believed about **Elektra**.

ELFQUEST™

Wendy and **Richard Pini**, writers; **Wendy Pini**, artist. An Epic comic. 75¢.

Cutter, Skywise and the elfin **Wolfriders** find much more than they bargained for, and pay a fearful price for it, in the Byzantine chambers of the Blue Mountain inhabited by a race of elves that appear to be the last survivors of the legendary **High Ones**.

The Wolfriders will gain knowledge about secret aspects of their own past. But they will also gain the information they need to continue their quest to find the home of **the High Ones**.

Wendy Pini will continue to draw new covers as well as draw and write new splash pages and bridging pages for most issues.

Ewoks™

Dave Manak, writer; **Warren Kremer**, penciler; **Jon D'Agostino**, inker. A Star comic. 75¢.

As if anybody would have any doubts, the small furry inhabitants of the planet Endor, **the Ewoks**, who helped make *THE RETURN OF THE JEDI* such a hit movie, have become a bit hit at Star.

One of the big plusses has been the rich cultural mythology wrapped around thrilling adventure that writer **Dave Manak** has created for **the Ewoks**.

Reader response has been so overwhelming, editor **Sid Jacobson** reported, that they plan to use many of the readers suggestions for future stories. Already there is an **EWOKS/DROIDS** cross-over to satisfy all the readers, which included just about everyone, who wanted to see **C-3PO** and **R2-D2** and **the Ewoks** together again.

FALLEN ANGELS™

Jo Duffy, writer; **Kerry Gammill**, penciler; **Tom Palmer**, inker. 6-issue Limited Series. 75¢.

Jo Duffy said that readers can expect to see quite a few people show up in this Limited Series (originally titled **MISFITS**) about young mutants who don't seem to belong in **the X-Men** or **New Mutants**.

"**The Vanisher** is the leader of **the Fallen Angels**, basically because his track record is such that no adult will work with him," **Jo Duffy** said. As for other characters, **Jo** said readers can "expect to see **Sunspot, Warlock, Siryn** and **Madrox**, the Multiple Man. There will be guest appearances by **Moira MacTaggart** and all **the New Mutants**, including **Magneto**. In the first issue we'll also be introducing **Chance**, a mutant with latent abilities. In the second issue we will be presenting **Ariel**, no relation to **Shadowcat**. **Ariel** is not human and not from Earth. We will also be using

YEAH, MORTY... THIS IS SHEL... WHAT CAN I DO YOU FOR?... YOU GOT A BOOKING ...AT THE COCONUT GROVE? SIX ISSUES... FOR SOME MUTANTS?
NO. THE MISFITS AREN'T AVAILABLE... THAT IS, THEY'RE STILL TOGETHER--WITH EACH OTHER, THAT IS. (THEY'VE BROKEN UP FROM PRACTICALLY EVERYONE ELSE, THOUGH.) THING IS, THEY'RE NOT CALLING THEMSELVES THE MISFITS, ANYMORE. IT'S THE FALLEN ANGELS NOW.
THE BRAZILIAN KID, SUNSPOT? SURE, HE'S ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS... THINKING OF GOING IT AS A SUPER-VILLAIN, THOUGH. YEAH HE BROUGHT THE ALIEN, WARLOCK, WITH HIM.
YEAH, WE CAN GET YOU BOOM BOOM, OR TIME BOMB, OR WHOEVER SHE IS, IF YOU WANT HER... AND THE SCREAMER, SIRYN, TOO... (MAN, YOU'RE TALKIN' ABOUT ONE NOISY ACT.)
WANT TO THROW IN THE BIG RED DINOSAUR, AND THE LITTLE CAVE KID...? YEAH, WE'LL MAKE HIM CLEAN UP AFTER THE DINOSAUR, IF HE HAS TO...
AN' MADROX THE MULTIPLE MAN... AS MANY OF HIM AS YOU WANT... I CAN'T GUARANTEE THE VANISHER WILL BE THERE... AND CHANCE IS A DEFINITE MAYBE...
MISFITS
FALLEN ANGELS
ARIEL... THE LITTLE GLITTER GIRL? WHAT DO YOU MEAN THE COCONUT GROVE IS HER HOME PLANET...?
MORTY, I THOUGHT WE WERE TALKIN' ABOUT A NIGHTCLUB OR A COCKTAIL LOUNGE...

WRITER: JO DUFFY ★ ARTIST: KERRY GAMMILL

Devil Dinosaur and **Moon Boy** and possibly **the Impossible Man** as well; it depends on how the continuity runs.

"**THE FALLEN ANGELS** will be tied to **THE X-MEN** and **THE NEW MUTANTS** continuities and although this is going to be a 6-issue Limited Series, we are keeping our options open on future stories—possibly continuing the series."

Fantastic Four®

Roger Stern, writer; **John Buscema**, artist. 75¢.

"**FANTASTIC FOUR** #296 is the 25th anniversary issue of **the FF**," **Roger Stern** said. "It is plotted by **Jim Shooter**, scripted by **Stan Lee** and drawn by almost everyone at Marvel. We will see how the original **Fantastic Four** pull together again after all they have been through. That's right, **the Thing** will return to **the FF**. Everyone has been through a lot of changes, so there will be a tension in the group that wasn't there before. **The She-Hulk** will continue to be around. Ultimately there will be a confrontation between **the Thing** and **the She-Hulk**. **Johnny Storm** will drop a bombshell of his own which will set the stage for the surprise that will happen in #300."

"**FF** #297 introduces new **FF** artist **John Buscema**, who's drawn many an **FF**-tale in the past," says editor **Mike Carlin**. "The issue introduces a wild and dangerous new villain for **the FF**... a guy named **Umbra**, who's real tough and a great threat to Earth—and **the FF** are *responsible* for him being here!"

Fantastic Four® MEET THE X-MEN

Chris Claremont, writer; **Jon Bogdanove**, penciler; **Terry Austin**, inker. 4-issue Limited Series. 75¢.

It all starts, **Ann Nocenti** said, "when evidence arises that **Reed** knew, before **the FF** went up into space, that the trip would change them, give them these powers. It may or may not be true, but the suspicion of it is there, and that causes trouble on the home front. **The FF** are being torn apart from within."

Where do **the X-Men** come in? "**Franklin Richards** has one of his precognitive dreams," **FF**-editor **Mike Carlin** said, "about the destruction of **the FF**. He's the one **the X-Men** know," so he goes to them for help. "**The X-Men** try to stop his dream from coming true—in effect, trying to save **the Fantastic Four** from themselves."

Larry Hama, writer; **Rod Whigham**, penciler; **Andy Mushynsky**, inker 75¢.

"In #52, **the Joes** get discredited, their headquarters, the Pit, is destroyed, and **the Joes** are on notice of being disbanded. It will look like the end for **G.I. Joe**," **Larry Hama** said. "I don't know what will happen after that, specifically. The only way that I can make the stories come out as a surprise for the readers is for me not to know what is supposed to happen when I sit down to write. I mean, I'm just as surprised when I get to the end of the story as the readers are.

"There are going to be a bunch of new **Joes** appearing, and a bunch of new **Cobras**—a lot of new **Cobras**, actually. And there will be a lot of weird political developments on Cobra Island which will result in a massive power shift.

"**The Joes** will be more mobile. The big thing for everyone to expect, though, is *surprises!* There will be a lot of them in **G.I. JOE** for the next year."

Larry Hama, writer; **Herb Trimpe**, artist. 75¢.

"The big difference **SPECIAL MISSIONS** has from **G.I. JOE** is that it will be a series of single-issue, self-contained action stories that will spotlight fewer **Joes** and won't have the soap-opera style that is in **G.I. JOE**," **Larry Hama** said. "The tales will also be in a more realistic environment and more technically oriented but they will still have a lot of action."

Larry went on to say that the foes these individual **Joes** will face won't be limited to just their main enemy, the terrorist organization of **Cobra**. "In the first episode, a group of **Joes** has to tackle some terrorists who have hijacked a Russian airliner containing some Americans which is on its way to Moscow," **Larry** said.

As for continuity with **G.I. JOE**, **Larry** said, "Its continuity won't be very close. Both books exist in the same universe, but I don't want to get stuck in any kind of continuity trap. I want to keep both separate but equal."

Sergio Aragones, writer and artist; **Mark Evanier**, something. An Epic comic. 75¢.

"What readers can expect in the next year from **Groo** is people getting accidentally stabbed, **Groo** screwing up, ships sinking— **Groo** will reach new heights of incompetence," **Mark Evanier** said of the world's stupidest barbarian. "In an upcoming issue he is going to do battle with a group of witches—the Witches of Brujas. In the issue after that he is going to meet a man whose name is **Gru** and who cannot understand why everyone is afraid of him.

"One of these days we will be meeting **Groo's** grandmother, **Granny Groo**. She's pretty much like him, with gray hair and a cane instead of a sword. And for all those hidden message freaks, we will be continuing the hidden messages in every issue."

GRAPHIC NOVEL

Mark Evanier, writer; **Sergio Aragones**, artist. Baxter paper. $6.95.

No, the above is not a misprint, **Mark** *is* the writer of what is sure to become the most sought-after Graphic Novel since **Jim Starlin's DEATH OF CAPTAIN MARVEL**.

The tale is titled "The Death of Groo" and it is neither an imaginary story nor a tale of the far future. This wacky mis-adventure about the world's dumbest barbarian occurs in the series' present continuity. Not only that, but **Groo** does not die at the end of the story, but within the *first six pages!*

Will this mean the end of the series? Probably not—**Groo** never does anything right, and why should death be any different?

GROWN-UP THERMONUCLEAR SAMURAI ELEPHANTS

Roger Stern, writer; **Klaus Janson**, artist. One-shot.

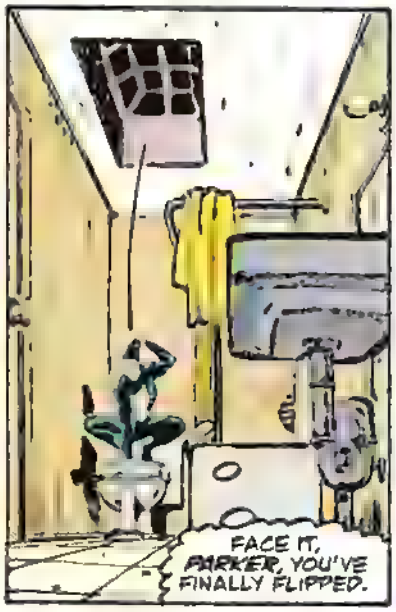
"The interesting story of four heroes, four humanoid elephants: **Trunktops**, **Electrolux**, **Rumbo** and the immortal **Phred**, who as a result of a bizarre accident in the southwestern United States involving the inventor of a strange new thermo-nuclear device and how these humanoid elephants are separated shortly after birth, grow up and finally find each other and band together as four crusaders to wipe out evil and nastiness wherever they find it," **Roger Stern** said. "And it is a love story."

Michael Gallagher, writer; **Warren Kremer**, penciler; **Jacqueline Roettcher**, inker. A Star comic. 75¢.

At Star Comics, the saying goes, "If there's trouble to be found, look for **Heathcliff**." No one ever quite knows what that rascally feline will be up to next, but what they do know is that no matter how tight the spot, how tough the struggle or how impossible the situation, **Heathcliff** will always come out on top!

With **Michael Gallagher**, the nephew of **Heathcliff** creator **George Gately**, writing the series, **HEATHCLIFF**

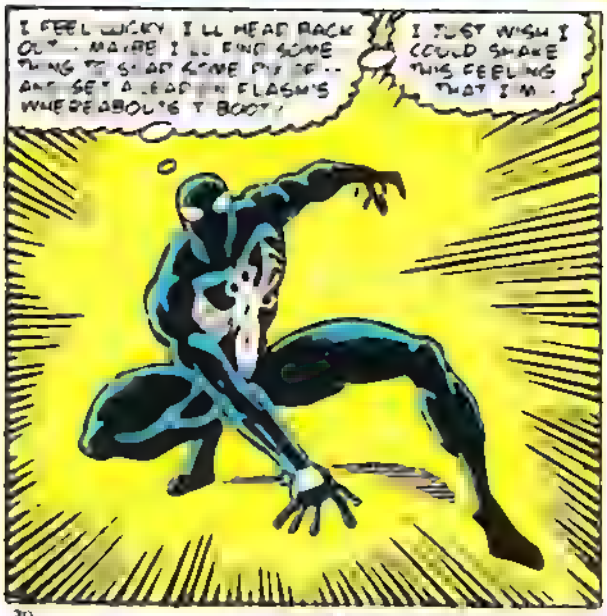
AMAZING
WEB OF
SPIDER-MAN
AFTER SAVING THE UNIVERSE FROM COMPLETE DESTRUCTION, THE AMAZING, SOPPING WET SPIDER-MAN ENTERS THROUGH A SECRET PORTAL INTO HIS SMALL, LOW RENT, SECRET BASE OF OPERATIONS.

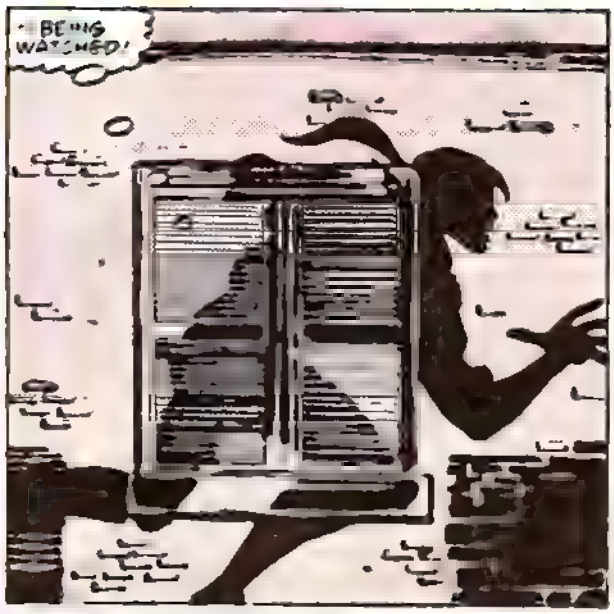


SOMETIMES I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT I SPEND HALF OF MY DAYS SWINGING AROUND THE CITY ON WEBS, DRESSED IN A PAIR OF PAJAMAS.
AND TO FEED MYSELF, I SPEND THE OTHER HALF TRYING TO SELL PICTURES THAT I'VE TAKEN OF MYSELF FIGHTING OTHER COSTUMED WEIRDOS.

I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO MY AUNT MAY IF SHE FOUND OUT... AND SHE WON'T! I'VE ALREADY DECIDED TO CALL UP THIS EFFIGY SYMBIOTE AS SOON AS I'VE POUNDED THE HOBGOBLIN!
I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT HOBBY IS MY FRIEND, FLASH THOMPSON! THAT'S WHY I AIN'T QUIT UNTIL I'VE FOUND HIM. IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP FLASH AND END THE MENACE OF THE HOBGOBLIN

AFTER EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING LATELY, IT SURE WILL BE A RELIEF TO HANG UP MY WEBS! MAYBE I CAN EVEN GO BACK TO SCHOOL-- PUT MY LIFE BACK IN ORDER! I OWE IT TO MYSELF, AND AUNT MAY!


I FEEL LUCKY. I'LL HEAD BACK OUT... MAYBE I'LL FIND SOME THING TO SMASH! SOME PIECE OF-- AND GET A LEAD ON FLASH'S WHEREABOUTS! BOOT!
I JUST WISH I COULD SHAKE THIS FEELING THAT I'M...



WRITER: ADAM BLAUSTEIN ★ PENCILER: RON FRENZ ★ INKER: JOE RUBINSTEIN

promises to have even more zany adventures like the tremendously popular "Heathcliff in London" romp.

Stan Kay, writer; **Warren Kremer**, penciler; **Jacqueline Roettcher**, inker. A Star comic. 75¢.

For pure embrace appeal, you can't beat **the Hugga Bunch!** They're the softest, huggingest new group from Star that you'll ever see!

The Hugga Bunch, Hugsy Tweaker, Bubbles, Patooty, Impkins, Tickles and **Precious Hugs**, and their friends live in a magical place called Huggaland, a world where everything is a soft and gentle reflection of everything we enjoy.

In their adventures, **the Hugga Bunch** will be visiting Earth and sometimes take Earthlings back with them to Hugga Land.

There will be lots of action for **the Hugga Bunch** and their friends, for there is a lot of sorrow and pain that has to be hugged away. But are **the Hugga Bunch** discouraged? No! For they have their creed that always keeps their spirits up:

Promise to hug at least once a day.
With each hug you get, give two away!

After their first adventure, don't be surprised if you, too, find yourself going "whole hug" for **the Hugga Bunch!**

Al Milgrom, writer and penciler. 75¢.

"**The Hulk** and **Bruce Banner** will be reunited," **Al Milgrom** said. "It was inevitable; but we will be confronted, after it happens, with a new interpretation of **the Hulk**. During the course of the next year, I plan to examine the concept of **the Hulk** as an insane entity. In the old days, there was the statement 'The madder he gets, the stronger he gets.' Well, they meant anger. But now I'm going to handle it as if they meant crazy. So the crazier **the Hulk** gets, the stronger he gets.

"**The Hulk** will not be an inarticulate monster, as he's been recently. He is going to have a working brain, but he will be very brutish, thuggish—like when he first appeared years ago.

"I'll be examining not only **the Hulk's** psyche, but that of **Bruce Banner** as well. There is going to be a lot of examination of the interplay between **Banner's** psyche and the parts of it that were most affected when he became **the Hulk**."

Jim Salicrup, writer; **James W. Fry**, penciler. A Star comic. 75¢.

The Inhumanoids are not human, are not alien and they are definitely *not* heroes. What **the Inhumanoids** are are three evil denizens of the Earth's depths, **Tendril, D. Compose** and the most powerful **Inhumanoid** of all, **Metlar**. Their goal is to conquer the world, not only the surface civilization, but the bizarre civilizations that exist below the crust as well.

Opposing their almost infinite power are the amazing Forest **Mutores**, the sophisticated underground **Granites** and the heroic human task force known as **the Earth Corps**.

Editor **Eliot Brown** told us that initially all the stories will be adaptations of the animated series.

David Michelinie, writer. 75¢.

David Michelinie returns to the series that launched his reputation at Marvel, with issue #215. **David** told us that he is still in the planning stages of what he intends to do, but he did say, "We will be moving the book more towards hi-tech. **Tony Stark** is an inventor and we will be focusing on that. He will be staying on the West Coast and will lead the life of a playboy more than he has in the recent past. He'll be spending money more freely and dating a lot of different, beautiful ladies.

"We will be modifying **Iron Man's** armor somewhat and we will be explaining how some of its new powers work.

"**Jim Rhodes** will be remaining in the series, but there will be some major changes in his relationship with the old armor. I don't want to go into details, but what will happen will be rather shocking."

Tom Jacobs and **Michael Gallagher**, writers; **Howard Post**, penciler, **Roberta Edelman**, inker. A Star comic. 75¢.

The operative word for this wacky series from Star is: *Gross!* Specifically, **Madballs** are eight different characters, **Oculus Orbus, Hornhead, Dustbrain, Crackhead, Slobulus, Screaming Meamie, Skull Face** and **Aargh** (the ugliest of them all) who were all once just normal, everyday non-sentient balls. Then, on one fateful day, they were exposed to a consciousness-expanding combination of chemical and nuclear pollution. The result is something worse than a baseball player's nightmare—and better than the grossest candy store stickers!

What exactly **Madballs** will do at Star is unclear, for not even the regular team has dared get close enough to them to find out!

Written and drawn by various writers and artists; **Al Milgrom**, editor. Direct sales only. Hudson paper. $1.50.

Alpha Flight

ALPHA'S DYING, SHAMAN!

"This year we will see a three-part **Black Knight** story written by **Steve Grant**. Each chapter is drawn by a different artist. The first chapter is by **Scott Hampton**, the second is by **John Buscema** and the third chapter will probably be drawn by **Mike Mignola**," **Al Milgrom** said.

"Other stories in the works are a **Vision** and **Scarlet Witch** story written by **Roger McKenzie** and drawn by **Paul Smith**. **Bill Mantlo**, **Mike Mignola** and **P. Craig Russell** are working on a **Sub-Mariner** story. I've got two **Moon Knight** stories, one written by **Ann Nocenti**, penciled by **Brent Anderson** and inked by **Al Williamson** and the other written by **Jo Duffy**, penciled by **Judith Hunt** and inked by **Bill Sienkiewicz**. **Bill Mantlo** and **Ken Steacy** have teamed up on an **Alpha Flight** job. **Walter Simonson** is writing a **Volstagg** story that artist **Bill Barney** will draw.

"**John Byrne** did a **Hulk** story all in splash pages, so that it is a 22-page story of 22 full-page illustrations. I think it would be an ideal sort of thing for **FANFARE**. It's certainly a very beautifully drawn job. I've had a number of requests for an all pin-up issue and this **John Byrne Hulk** story would sort of kill two birds with one stone, though all the pin-ups would be of **the Hulk**."

MARVEL SAGA™
THE OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE

Peter Sanderson, writer. $1.00.

"We are undergoing design changes which we think will make the book more visually pleasing and easier to read," **Peter Sanderson** said of the series which chronicles the linear history of the Marvel Universe. "In addition, we will be featuring new art in each issue, aside from that on the covers.

"Now that we have finished the initial issues of the older Marvel series, which contained a lot of the origins, we are picking up the pace so that we now cover about three to four months worth of stories within each issue of **MARVEL SAGA**."

MARVEL TALES™

Chris Claremont, writer; **John Byrne**, penciler; **Dave Hunt**, inker. 75¢.

"Starting with #192, we will be reprinting those old and wonderful **Claremont** and **Byrne** issues from **MARVEL TEAM-UP**," Assistant Editor **Adam Blaustein** said. "There are some really good stories in the run done by them and it will take us the rest of this year and most of next to complete it.

"Also, with #192 we will be returning to the traditional **MARVEL TALES** format of reprinting one story per issue. We will have **IRON MAN** artist **Mark Bright** doing new covers for **MARVEL TALES**, as well."

MASTERS™ OF THE UNIVERSE

Mike Carlin, writer; **Ron Wilson**, penciler; **Dennis Janke**, inker. A Star comic. 75¢.

"The heroic action of **He-Man** and his friends fighting to save Eternia from the evil forces of **Skeletor** will continue," **Mike Carlin** said. "In fact, in issue #6, the adventure becomes global. We will spotlight the flying weapons of **Skeletor** and **He-Man**. **Skeletor** will take over Eternia's palace while disguised as **Orko**."

Mike added that he will continue with the touches of humor that have made the series so popular. In fact there is an inventory story he did with artist **Klaus Janson** that he hopes will see print soon. "It's called 'Love Stinks,'" **Mike** said. "And it spotlights the character, **Stinkor**, the evil master of odors. I had a lot of fun with it."

MOONSHADOW™

J. Marc DeMatteis, writer; **Jon J Muth**, illustrator. 12-issue Limited Series. An Epic comic. Hudson paper. Direct sales only. For Mature Readers. $1.50.

"Basically what we've been doing all along in this fantasy for adults is relate **Moonshadow's** journey into awakening," **J. Marc DeMatteis** said. "It's been like the classic picaresque tale where the innocent hero has nothing but horrible things happen to him along the way—everything that could possibly go wrong in his life has gone wrong. And one of the things that will happen in the last few issues is that **Moonshadow**, instead of being a victim as he has been, will now start to take responsibility for things. The romantic dreamer that he once was, he no longer will be.

"This Limited Series is, was, and has always intended to be a 12-issue illustrated novel. And that is what it basically is, a complete novel, and it will have a definite, if somewhat cryptic, ending."

MOONSHADOW™
GRAPHIC NOVEL

J. Marc DeMatteis, writer; **Jon J Muth**, illustrator. For Mature Readers. $6.95.

"There is going to be a **MOONSHADOW Graphic Novel** which will be a follow-up to the Limited Series," **J. Marc DeMatteis** said. "Though the Limited Series is complete unto itself, in the course of the twelve issues and in getting to know the characters, I've discovered what has happened to **Moonshadow** in the rest of his life. So what the Graphic novel will do is follow **Moonshadow** through the rest of his life and see what happens to him.

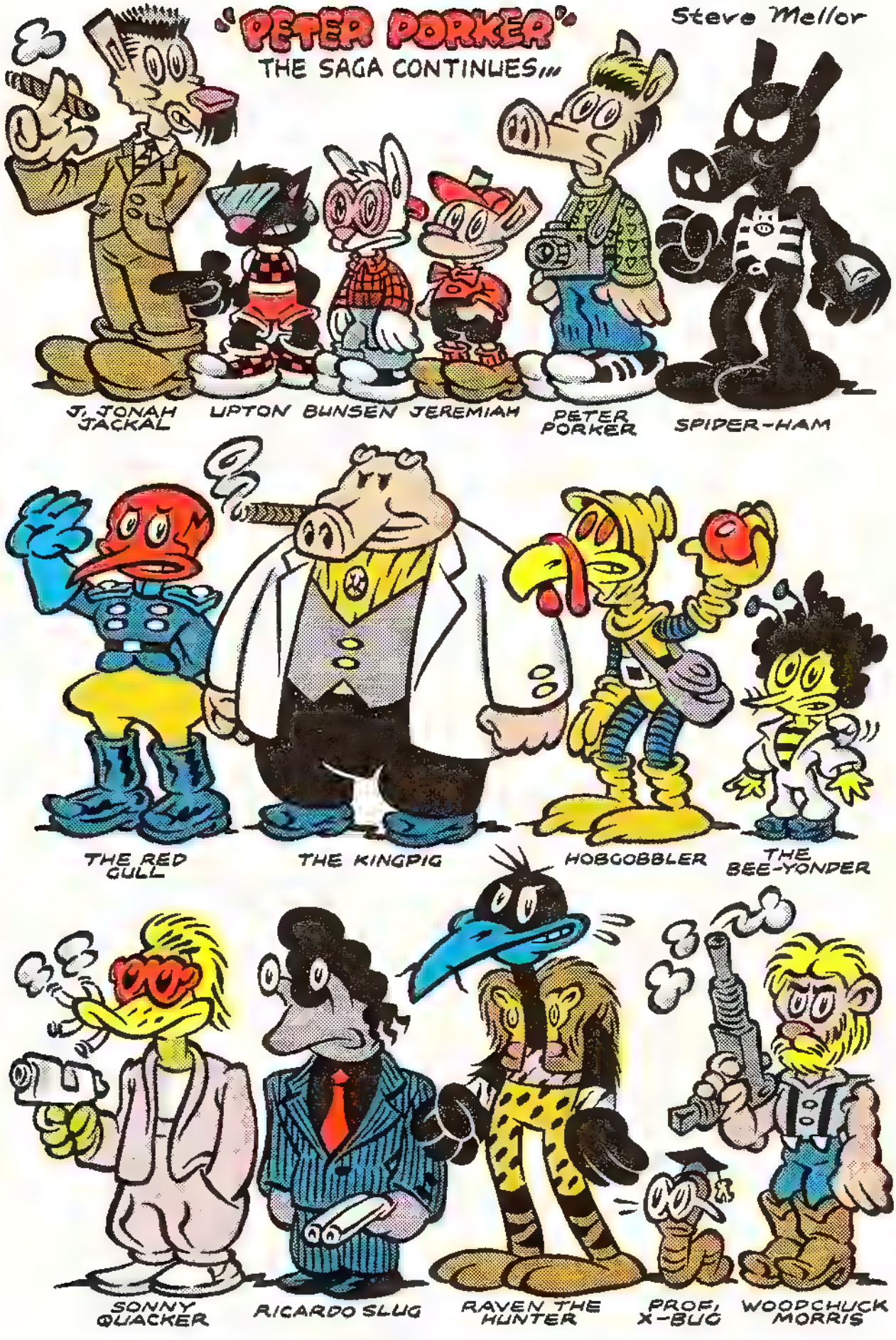
"**Jay** will be the illustrator for that, too. The Graphic Novel will have a different narrative tone. And we are both looking forward to seeing this story in print."

Jim Henson's MUPPET BABIES™

Stan Kay, writer; **Marie Severin**, artist. A Star comic. **75¢**.

IN 1985, IN THE ABSENCE OF THOR THE FROST GIANTS OF JOTUNHEIM MARSHALED THEIR FORCES AND INVADED ASGARD. LONG TIME TRADITIONAL ENEMIES THE NORSE GODS.
WHAT FOLLOWED WAS THE GOD-GIANT WAR
AND WHEN IT WAS OVER, THE GIANTS HAD WON
WHAT HAPPENED THEN BEGAN A LEGEND THAT WILL LIVE AS LONG AS STORIES OF VALOR ARE TOLD BY THE HUMAN HEART
THE SAGA OF THE
VENGEANCE OF THOR!

IN 1980, IN THE ABSENCE OF THOR, THE FROST GIANTS OF JOTUNHEIM MARSHALED THEIR FORCES AND INVADED ASGARD, CITADEL OF THEIR TRADITIONAL ENEMIES, THE NORSE GODS.
WHAT FOLLOWED WAS THE GOD-GIANT WAR.
AND WHEN IT WAS OVER, THE GIANTS HAD WON.
WHAT HAPPENED THEN BEGAN A LEGEND THAT WILL LIVE AS LONG AS STORIES OF VALOR ARE TOLD BY THE HUMAN HEART.
THE SAGA OF THE VENGEANCE OF THOR!



WRITER AND ARTIST: STEVE MELLOR

The only thing that could be more fun than a barrel full of monkeys is a comic book full of **Muppet Babies**!

These pint-sized personifications of the world-famous **Muppets** no sooner get themselves out of one misadventure before they find themselves ensnarled in an even more hilarious one. If the adults of their world knew what really went on in the **Muppet Baby** nursery—they'd join in the fun!

No one knows what will happen next to **the Muppet Babies**. But what we do know is that the upcoming year is going to be filled with even wilder adventure for **the Muppet Babies**.

Doug Murray, writer; **Mike Golden**, penciler; **Armando Gil**, inker. 75¢

"**THE 'NAM** is meant to be a pretty realistic view of the Viet Nam War," **Doug Murray** said. "There will be a lot of action, but it won't be like RAMBO.

"The first issue starts off in 1966 with **Ed Marks**, who will be our lead character for a time. We'll see him go from the States to 'Nam. The end of the first issue will show his first taste of action, a small fire-fight with a couple of snipers and some rear-guard elements during a road-clearing operation.

"For the first six or eight months our stories will rotate around **Ed Marks** and the seven or eight characters who comprise a squad in the 25th Infantry.

"Some of the supporting characters are **Mike Alburgo**, an outgoing individual who shows **Ed Marks** how things work in 'Nam; **Monte Cruz**, a Southern boy; **Platoon Sergeant Plocow** who has an on-going conflict with the First Sergeant, a guy who is a profiteer, accepts bribes, plays favorites and does a little bit of business on the side. There is also a clerk, **Rob Little**, who wants to get into combat, but can't because the First Sergeant thinks of him as a protege. And there's a crooked medic named **Al "The Greek" Hackis** who refuses to do anything in the field. He gets away with this because he does business with the First Sergeant.

"We'll show as much as we can of the way the war was conducted, the good and the bad. We'll get a look at the corruption and at the honest heroism that took place. It will be personalized as much as possible. We'll even get a glimpse of the enemy's point of view."

Chris Claremont, writer; **Jackson Guice**, penciler; **Kyle Baker**, inker. 75¢.

"There will be major confrontations between **the New Mutants** and **Magus** leading up to issue #50," **Chris Claremont** said. "There are things happening in **THE X-MEN** that will have an effect in **THE NEW MUTANTS** and vice versa. The kids' relationship with **Magneto** is a major element in the book and will remain so. There is a lot of stuff in the works that we are trying to keep under wraps, so I can't say much else except that no new members will be joining **the New Mutants**."

Peter Sanderson and **Mark Gruenwald**, writers. $1.25.

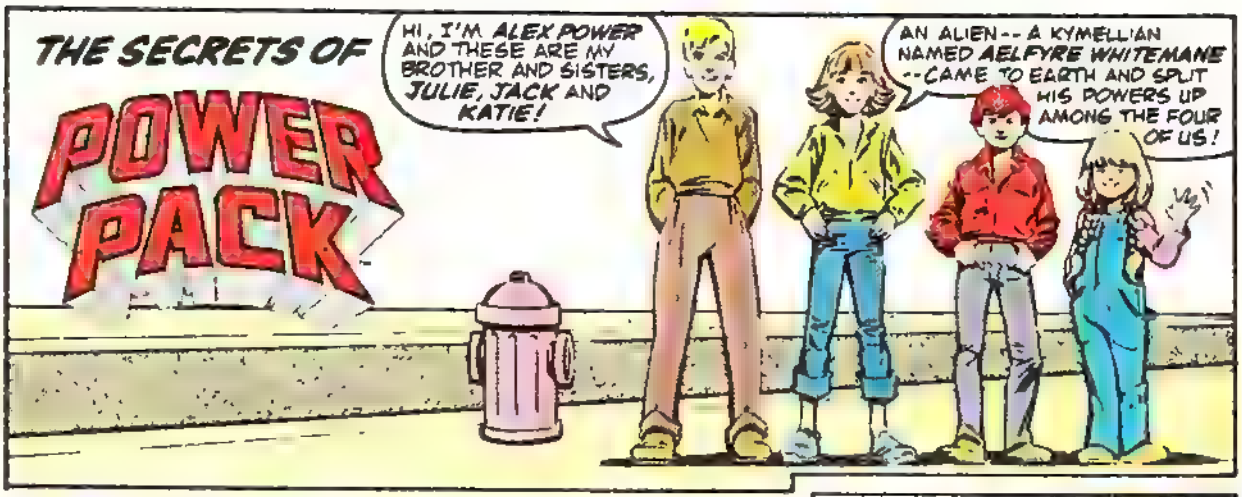
"The series will run through #14," **Mark Gruenwald** said. "Then we'll take a break for a while, try to regain our wits, and check and see if there is enough reader demand for us to do the 'Dead Books' again.

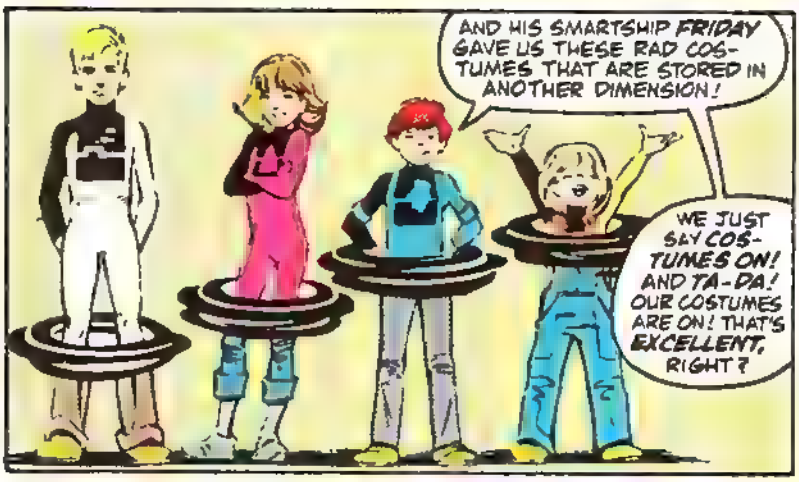
"I am planning to do an appendix which will answer everyone's request to put all the characters in the Marvel Universe into the series. What this appendix will be is an alphabetical listing of every character. If any character had an entry in the **DELUXE SERIES**, **THE APPENDIX** will have a notation directing the reader there. If the character does not, **THE APPENDIX** will give an abbreviated biography. **THE APPENDIX** will also contain as many illustrations as we can fit in. **THE APPENDIX** will probably run about two issues.

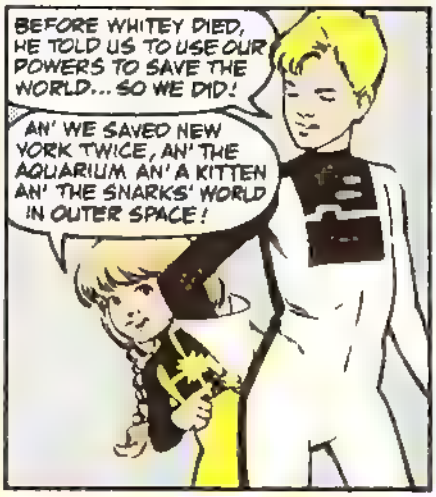
"Some time later this year there will be a trade paperback edition of the **HANDBOOK** series, similar to the paperback **ORIGINS** series. It will be a reprint of the **DELUXE** series with new covers and some new material."

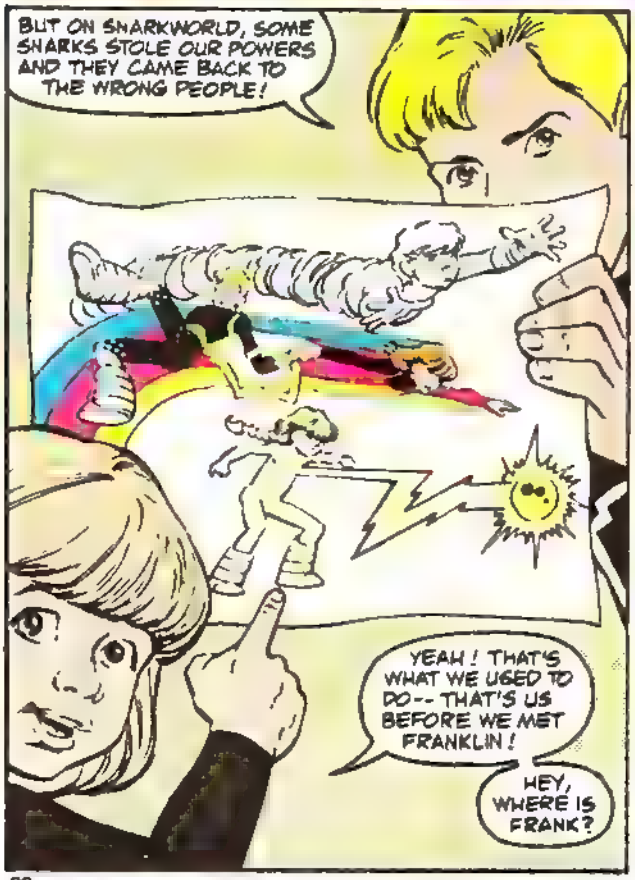
compiled by **George Olshevsky**. $1.25.

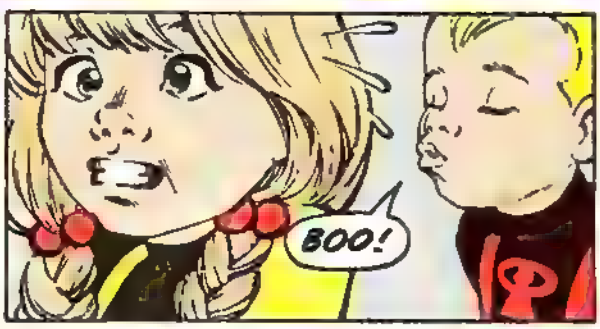
"THE FANTASTIC FOUR INDEX will end for now with

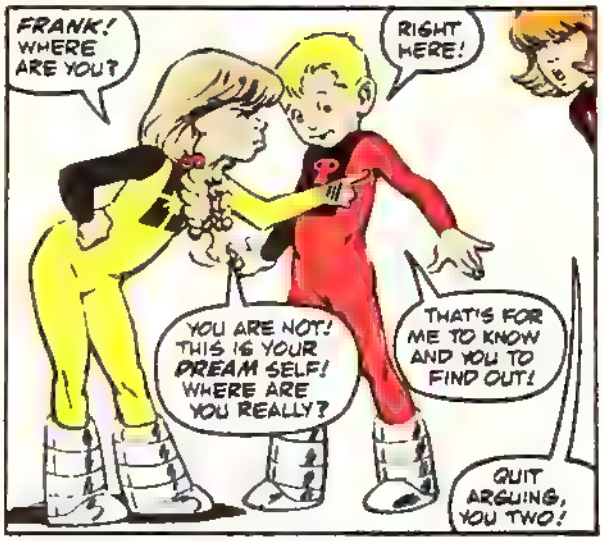

THE SECRETS OF
POWER PACK
HI, I'M ALEX POWER AND THESE ARE MY BROTHER AND SISTERS, JULIE, JACK AND KATIE!
AN ALIEN -- A KYMELL'IAN NAMED AELFYRE WHITEMANE -- CAME TO EARTH AND SPLIT HIS POWERS UP AMONG THE FOUR OF US!


AND HIS SMARTSHIP FRIDAY GAVE US THESE RAD COSTUMES THAT ARE STORED IN ANOTHER DIMENSION!
WE JUST SAY COSTUMES ON! AND TA-DA! OUR COSTUMES ARE ON! THAT'S EXCELLENT, RIGHT?


BEFORE WHITEY DIED, HE TOLD US TO USE OUR POWERS TO SAVE THE WORLD... SO WE DID!
AN' WE SAVED NEW YORK TWICE, AN' THE AQUARIUM AN' A KITTEN AN' THE SNARKS' WORLD IN OUTER SPACE!


BUT ON SNARKWORLD, SOME SNARKS STOLE OUR POWERS AND THEY CAME BACK TO THE WRONG PEOPLE!
YEAH! THAT'S WHAT WE USED TO DO -- THAT'S US BEFORE WE MET FRANKLIN!
HEY, WHERE IS FRANK?




FRANK! WHERE ARE YOU?
RIGHT HERE!
YOU ARE NOT! THIS IS YOUR DREAM SELF! WHERE ARE YOU REALLY?
THAT'S FOR ME TO KNOW AND YOU TO FIND OUT!
QUIT ARGUING, YOU TWO!

WRITER: LOUISE SIMONSON ★ PENCILER: JON BOGDANOVE ★ INKER: ART NICHOLS

ANYWAY, THIS IS WHAT WE DO NOW!
LOOK, I CAN FLY!
HEY, LOOK OUT!
AW, WHAT DO YOU CARE, FRANK --YOU'RE NOT EVEN HERE!
HEY, JULIE--DO A JACK-HAMMER!
HA! THAT'S MORE LIKE A FLAPJACK!
OUCH!
I'M NOT USING YOUR DUMB NAME! I'M GONNA CHANGE IT--SO THERE! AND I WON'T TELL, 'CAUSE IT'S A SECRET! NYAH!
QUIET, YOU TWO!
CLUNK
YOU'RE GIVING PEOPLE THE IMPRESSION WE ARGUE ALL THE TIME!
YOU MEAN YOU DON'T ARGUE ALL THE TIME?
DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO, MR. SMART ALEX!
ONE THING WE AGREE ON--WE HAVEN'T TOLD OUR MOM AND DAD ABOUT OUR POWERS!
WE DON'T WANT TO WORRY THEM.
MY MOM AND DAD KNOW ABOUT MY POWERS--AND IT SURE WORRIES THEM!
THEY'RE IN THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
SO EXCEPT FOR FRANK'S FOLKS KNOWING ABOUT HIS POWERS, NOBODY KNOWS WE'RE POWER PACK--
--EXCEPT FOR THE KYMELLIANS AND THE SNARKS AND THOR AND BETA RAY BILL--
--AND THE WARRIORS THREE AND CLOAK AND DAGGER AND THE MORLOCKS--THE ONES THAT ARE LEFT--
--AND THE X-MEN--
--AND YOU!
SO SHHH! DON'T TELL!

issue #12," **George Olshevsky** said. "But more importantly, it will mark the end of the format we've been using. With the next series, **THE X-MEN**, we will be switching to a new format. It will be more concise and visual. The color cover reproductions will be full-page size and opposite the covers will be the entry of the cover story. The entries themselves will be more streamlined and run no more than one full page of type. **THE X-MEN INDEX** will run at least eight issues.

"We'll be running three issues of **THE PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN INDEX** in the new format before we get it indexed as close as we can to modern times. **THE MARVEL TEAM-UP INDEX** will end with the fifth issue and it will all be in the old format. **THE AVENGERS INDEX** won't appear for quite a while because we want to finish the **PETER PARKER** and **TEAM-UP** indices first. But once those are done, our plan is to alternate **THE AVENGERS INDEX** with the **X-MEN** on the schedule."

THE ALL NEW, ALL DARING PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN™

J. Marc DeMatteis, writer; **Mike Zeck**, penciler. 75¢.

Hold the presses! Last-minute news! We've just learned that there'll be a brand new creative team on **PETER PARKER**—**J. Marc DeMatteis** and **Mike Zeck**! According to Assistant Editor **Adam Blaustein**, "**Marc** and **Mike** are ready to go, and excited about their new assignment. As soon as we can get them in a room with the other Spider-writers and artists, they'll be able to talk out just what they want to do with **PETER PARKER**. They're determined to shake things up, and make **SPECTACULAR** the key word in this series' title."

PETER PORKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-HAM™

Steve Mellor, writer, **Joe Albelo**, artist. A Star comic. 75¢.

"We try to find as much as we can of the real world to satirize in addition to what we use from the Marvel Universe in **PETER PORKER**," **Steve Mellor** said. "The characters in **PETER PORKER** should be able to exist on their own, and I think they do. If readers get the Marvel connection, that's great, but it isn't really necessary.

"The past couple of issues I've done have been takeoffs of films and popular TV shows. I'm not sure if I'll continue in this vein. Issue #12 will be more of a straight adventure, although the characters in the story will be takeoffs of public figures.

"In general, I see **PETER PORKER** getting funnier and faster-paced. I just want to try and keep as much of the humor in it as possible. It's a humor comic for kids, so keeping that in mind, I try and tie it in to popular things so that a kid can readily identify what I'm spoofing.

"There will be more satires of super heroes in the back-up stories. And I will be continuing to make the back-ups as different as possible in theme from the main story."

PHOENIX™

Chris Claremont, writer; **Rick Leonardi**, penciler; **Dan Green**, inker. 6-issue Limited Series. 75¢.

"It is basically **Phoenix** discovering who she is, what she is and why she is and discovering her origin," **Chris Claremont** said. "It is a much more psychologically oriented series than most."

The Limited Series begins with the results of what happens in **X-MEN** #209. **Power Pack** and **Franklin Richards** are among the guest-stars. And the featured villain will be **Spiral**.

Stan Kay, writer; **John Costanza**, penciler; **Jacqueline Roettcher**, inker. A Star comic. 75¢.

If laughter is the best medicine, then these cuddly little critters who pop out of their own pouches are the best prescription for a good time! *Popplus Adorabus* (as they are scientifically called) love popping into people's lives and making them laugh.

There are nine fun-loving **Popples**, **P.C. Popple**, **Pancake Popple**, **Prize Popple** (she really takes the prize), **Puzzle Popple**, **Puffball Popple**, **Pretty Bit Popple**, **Potato Chip Popple**, **Putter Popple** and the most popular **Popple** of all, **Party Popple**!

What **the Popples** plan to do at Star is nothing less than their off-beat best to make sure that everyone gets his MDLR—his Minimum Daily Laughter Requirement!

POWER PACK™

Louise Simonson, writer; **Jon Bogdanove**, artist. Direct sales only. $1.00.

"I AM TROUBLED AT HEART, AND MY HANDS SHIVER FROM AN UNSEEN DRAFT. WERE I NOT *DR. STEPHEN STRANGE*, PRE-EMINENT SORCEROR OF EARTH'S ENTIRE UNIVERSE, I WOULD THINK I WAS AFRAID. BUT THAT'S RIDICULOUS.
"THEN WHY DO I FEEL AS IF I'M ABOUT TO FACE A MENACE FROM A QUARTER I'VE NEVER FACED BEFORE-- AS IF I'M STANDING ON THE EDGE OF A DARKNESS AND A FEAR I HAVE NEVER FOUGHT? WHY DOES IT SEEM AS IF EVERYTHING I'VE BASED MY LIFE ON MAY TURN OUT TO BE A LIE?
"WHY DOES A VOICE SEEM TO WHISPER THAT THE OLD DR. STRANGE WILL PASS AWAY-- AND THAT SOME NEW THING ENTIRELY MAY TAKE ITS PLACE? I AM COLD IN MY HEART-- AND SOMETHING VERY LIKE FEAR HOLDS MY HAND."
DOCTOR STRANGE

WRITER: PETER GILLIS ★ ARTIST: CHRIS WARNER

"The **Power** kids have had their powers switched around by the alien **Snarks** so, amongst other problems, the kids will all have to get used to using different powers," **Louise Simonson** said of Marvel's youngest super hero team. "**Franklin Richards** will be bouncing back and forth a lot more between his parents in **THE FANTASTIC FOUR** and the **Power** kids in **POWER PACK**.

"**Alex**, the oldest of the **Power** kids, will be having a big conflict with his brother and sisters now that he's thirteen. **Alex** has a girlfriend. He wants to be on his own and lead his own life, but he knows that he is the leader of this team of super-powered children. But he doesn't necessarily want to be a part of this group of little kids. It's going to be really tough for him because he will want to break away, but he can't.

"In issue #27, we are going to cross-over with **X-FACTOR**. **Power Pack** is going to be instrumental in getting **Caliban** to go with **X-Factor**.

"In issues #28 and #29, we will be doing a two-part story called 'The Eternal Child' in which **Power Pack** finds the son of **Ikaris the Eternal**. Unknown to **Ikaris**, he has a son by an Earthwoman who has since died. This son has many of **Ikaris'** powers. **Power Pack** will work to get the father and son together.

"After that, we will probably have a tie-in with **Asgard**, having **the Power Pack** up in Asgard and some of the Asgardian kids on Earth."

THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN™ THE BARBARIAN

Jim Owsley and others, writers; **Mike Docherty** and **Gary Kwapisz**, artists. $1.50.

"Since **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** has no continuity," **Jim Owsley** said, "each issue can have a story taking place at any time in **Conan's** life. The stories will be very intense, very grim, sticking closer to what **Conan's** creator, **Robert E. Howard**, did. I am aiming the **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** stories more toward the **Howard** purists, those who know exactly what they are buying and why. Also, since the stories are longer, their approach will be a lot more cinematic."

But above all, **Jim** stressed that when he says that the stories will be grim and intense, he means *grim* and *intense*. "It will be like RAGING BULL. It will be like RUNAWAY TRAIN. It will be like: don't read this magazine if you're in a depressed state!"

SAVAGE TALES®

Written and drawn by various writers and artists. $1.50.

Editor **Larry Hama** says that he is in the middle of preparing some new features for this anthology magazine that specializes in mainstream hard-hitting adventure stories.

"**William Johnson** is doing **the Savage Girls**, our two cover girls, as characters in a series of stories for us," **Larry Hama** said. "And we have a whole bunch of stories in the drawer by **John Severin**, westerns, war tales and a period boxing piece. There is also a story drawn by him about the gangster, **"Dutch" Schultz**, written by **Bob Kanigher**. **Sam Glanzman** is doing a series about a destroyer in World War II. We also have a **Gray Morrow** story, a **John Buscema** western and a **Pepe Moreno** story that we will bring out in the following year."

THE SILVER SURFER™

Steve Englehart, writer. 75¢.

"Because it was delayed and is now coming out after **Stan Lee's** Graphic Novel, in which **the Silver Surfer** gets off the Earth, plans for this series have changed," **Steve Englehart** said. "Instead of being a 12-issue Limited Series, it will now be an unlimited series taking place after **the Silver Surfer** leaves Earth. A number of the elements that I had planned for the Limited Series, including the introduction of **Mantis**, will be grafted into the new series."

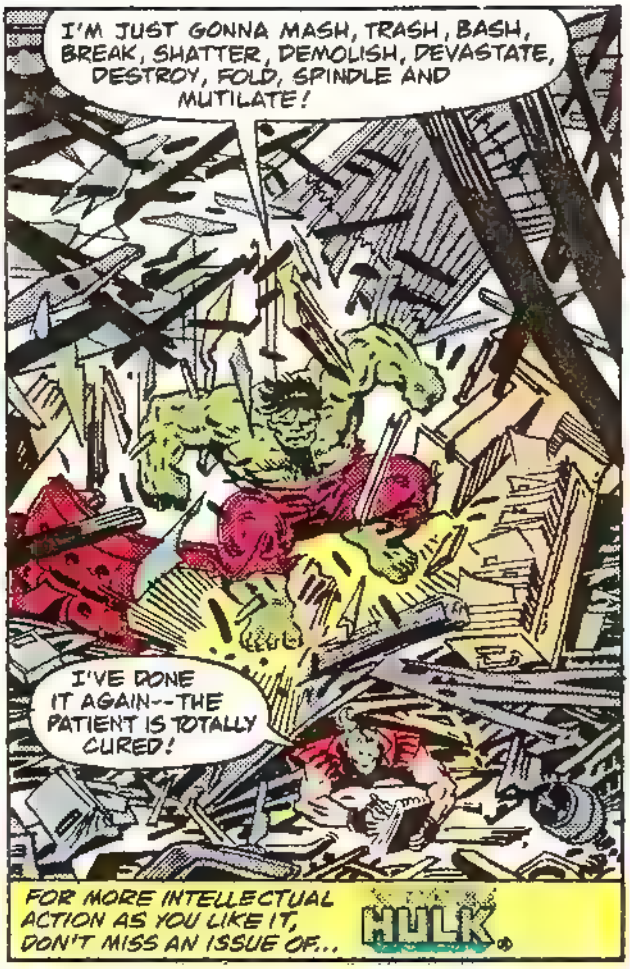
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN® VERSUS WOLVERINE™

Jim Owsley, writer; **Mark Bright**, penciler. 64 pages, one-shot.

"An old comrade from **Wolverine's** past turns up, leaving a trail of very dead secret agents in his wake," **Jim Owsley** says. "**Wolverine** is out to stop him. **Spider-Man** gets involved in this too, and because of his feeling of responsibility, **Spider-Man** is trying to make everything nice—he thinks there's good guys and bad guys in this, and is basically looking for **Doc Ock**, or the equivalent. At every turn, **Wolverine** keeps telling him, 'Go home. You don't know what you're doing. Go home.'"

But **Spider-Man** persists, determined to find a clear-cut solution for a morally murky situation. And pretty soon, as **Ann Nocenti** puts it, "he finds out that he's in *waaay* over his head." He and **Wolverine** have completely different approaches to things, and this is definitely a situation where

SO YOU SEE, HULK, YOUR BEING AN OUTCAST FROM THE REST OF HUMANITY DOESN'T GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO LASH OUT INDISCRIMINATELY!
YOU'RE RIGHT, DOC SAMSON--YOUR HEAD SHRINKIN' CONVINCED ME I DON'T HAVETA SMASH THINGS ANYMORE...


I'M JUST GONNA MASH, TRASH, BASH, BREAK, SHATTER, DEMOLISH, DEVASTATE, DESTROY, FOLD, SPINDLE AND MUTILATE!
I'VE DONE IT AGAIN--THE PATIENT IS TOTALLY CURED!
FOR MORE INTELLECTUAL ACTION AS YOU LIKE IT, DON'T MISS AN ISSUE OF..
HULK

WRITER AND ARTIST: AL MILGROM

Wolverine is the expert. Can **Spider-Man** find a way to solve everything, or at least get out of the way without destroying those he's trying to save?

Steelgrip Starkey tm

Al Weiss, writer; **Al Weiss**, **Jim Sherman**, **Val Mayerik**, pencilers; **Jim Sherman**, inker. 6-Issue Limited Series. An Epic Comic. Baxter paper. Direct Sales only. $1.50.

Steelgrip Starkey could be called the ultimate working-class hero. He is a normal man who is given a super-heroic job to do, and to accomplish his work, he is given a tool that possesses the technology of tomorrow.

It is a story of how **Patrick "Steelgrip" Starkey** faces the challenges of his work and his life, how his beliefs in himself and his ideals are tested and, ultimately, how he wins.

Strikeforce: Morituri tm

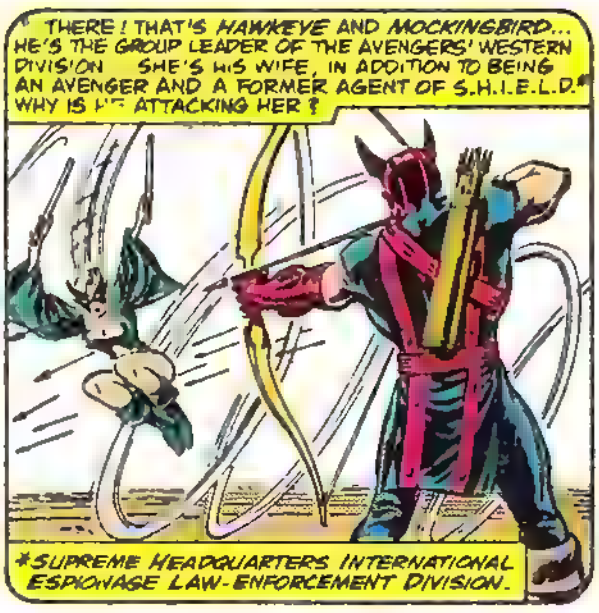
Peter B. Gillis, writer; **Brent Anderson**, penciler; **Scott Williams**, inker. 75¢.

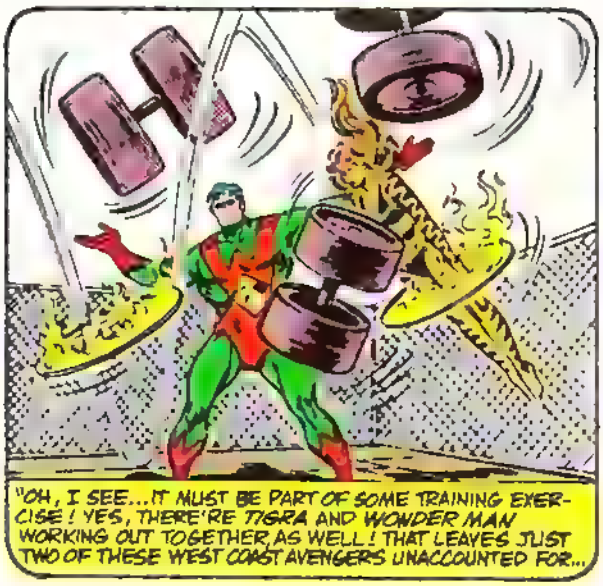
"*Morituri* is Latin for 'Those who are about to die.'" said **Peter Gillis**. "The setting is about 50 or 75 years from now. Aliens are invading Earth. Earth is gradually losing the war against the aliens when Earth unleashes its new secret weapon: super heroes. The Earth scientists have come up with a super hero-creating process. The only catch is, the process kills you inside a year, hence the name of the series. The people who agree to undergo the transformation don't know when they will die, but die they will. The longest their lives will last is one year or so.

"So basically we will introduce a bunch of characters in the first issue who will be gone inside of a year. This will be a very character-oriented book that will deal with many conflicts, but especially the one with how these people will face their own deaths. And we will discover why each made his decision to sacrifice himself.

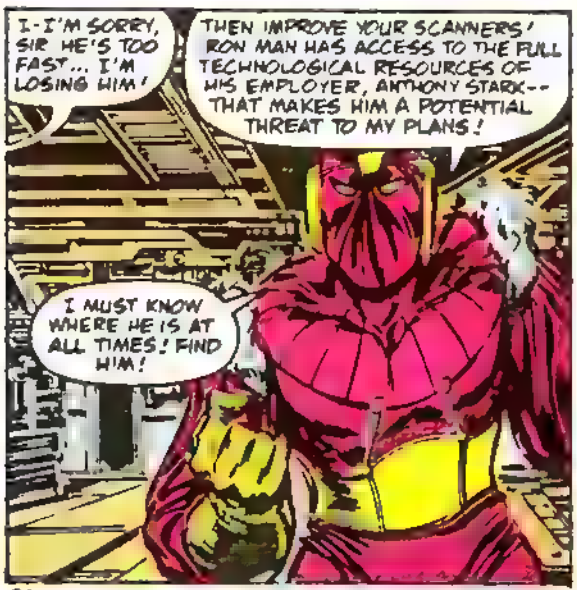
"It will be a series just reeking with pathos."

IN A HIDDEN COMMAND CENTER, SOMEWHERE ON THE EASTERN SEABOARD...
HOW MUCH LONGER MUST I WAIT, FIXER?
NOT ANOTHER MOMENT, BARON ZEMO! MY PACIFIC COASTAL SCANNER HAS FINALLY GOTTEN A FIX ON THE AVENGERS' WEST COAST COMPOUND!
I'M PICKING UP SOME ACTIVITY ON THE GROUNDS! JUST LET ME ADJUST THE ZOOM-FOCUS, AND...


THERE! THAT'S HAWKEYE AND MOCKINGBIRD... HE'S THE GROUP LEADER OF THE AVENGERS' WESTERN DIVISION SHE'S HIS WIFE, IN ADDITION TO BEING AN AVENGER AND A FORMER AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.* WHY IS HE ATTACKING HER?
*SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION.


"OH, I SEE...IT MUST BE PART OF SOME TRAINING EXERCISE! YES, THERE'RE TIGRA AND WONDER MAN WORKING OUT TOGETHER, AS WELL! THAT LEAVES JUST TWO OF THESE WEST COAST AVENGERS UNACCOUNTED FOR...

...AND HERE THEY ARE-- FIREBIRD AND IRON MAN! WE DON'T HAVE MUCH INFORMATION ON HER, BUT IRON MAN-- AS I'M SURE YOU'RE AWARE-- WAS ONE OF THE AVENGERS' FOUNDING MEMBERS, AND--!
BE STILL! HE'S LEAVING... FOLLOW HIM!
IRON MAN


I-I'M SORRY, SIR HE'S TOO FAST... I'M LOSING HIM!
THEN IMPROVE YOUR SCANNERS! IRON MAN HAS ACCESS TO THE FULL TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES OF HIS EMPLOYER, ANTHONY STARK-- THAT MAKES HIM A POTENTIAL THREAT TO MY PLANS!
I MUST KNOW WHERE HE IS AT ALL TIMES! FIND HIM!

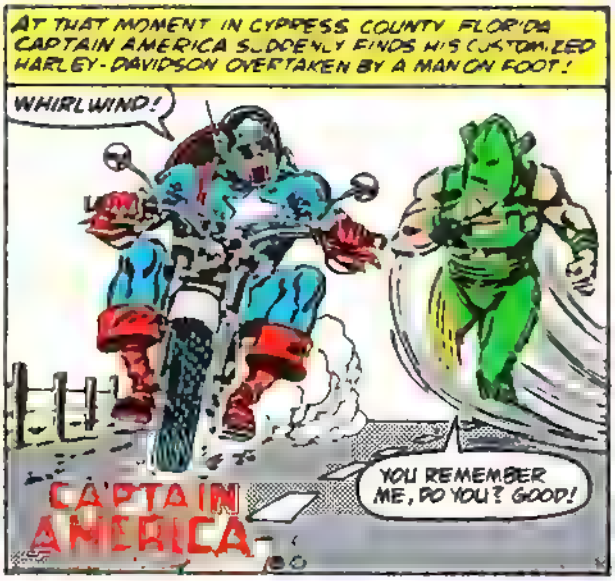
BUT WITHIN MINUTES, THE ARMORED AVENGER IS FAR BEYOND THE RANGE OF THE FIXER'S SURVEILLANCE SCANNERS...
...AND APPROACHING TONY STARK'S ORBITAL SPACE RESEARCH STATION!

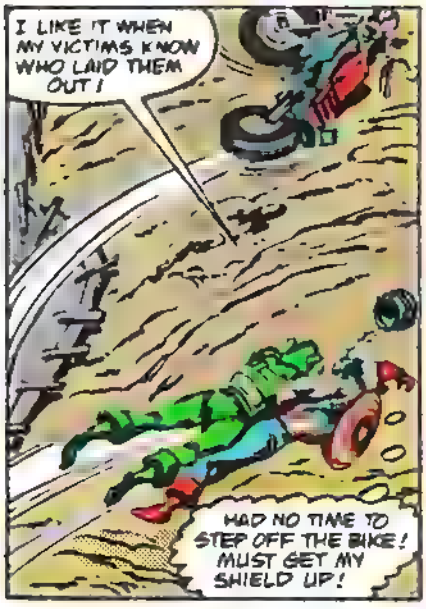
WRITER: ROGER STERN ★ PENCILER: JOHN BUSCEMA ★ INKER: TOM PALMER

ONCE INSIDE THE STATION'S ENVIRONMENT, IRON MAN IS AGAIN FREE TO REMOVE HIS PROTECTIVE HELMET HERE THE ONLY OTHER EYES BELONG TO HIS OLD FRIEND AND NEW BUSINESS PARTNER, JIM RHODES.
WHAT'S THE GOOD WORD, RHODEY?
HMM? OH — I'LY CALLED ON THE SCRAMBLER A FEW MINUTES AGO. LOOKS LIKE WE LANDED THAT CONTRACT WITH ROCKWELL
WE DID?! THAT'S GREAT!
UH-HUH.

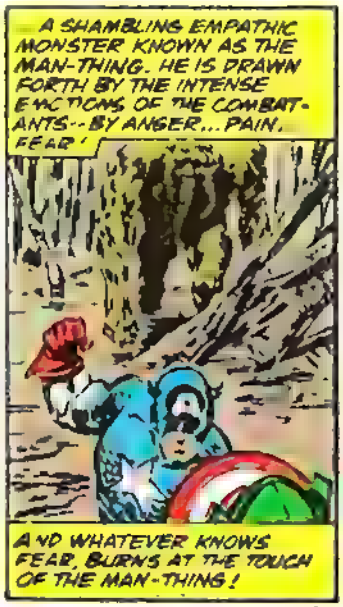
YOU DON'T SOUND ALL THAT EXCITED WHAT'S THE--? OH.
SURE IS A PRETTY WORLD, ISN'T IT?

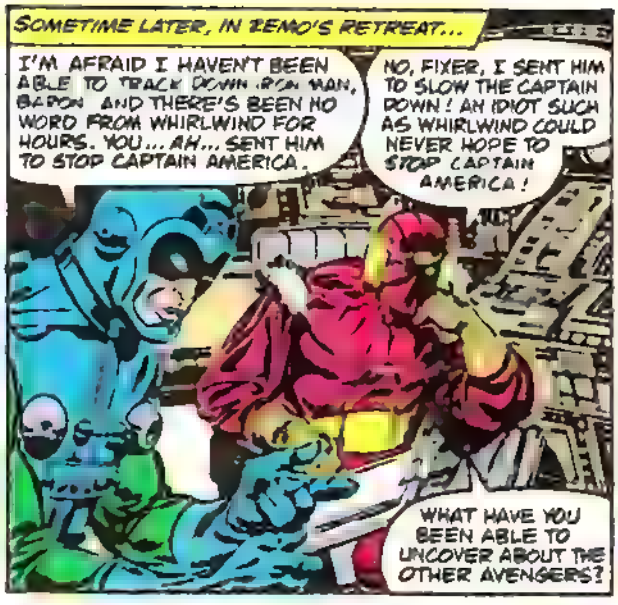
YES, JIM, IT'S I JUST HOPE WE CAN KEEP IT THAT WAY
YOU AN' ME BOTH, TONY!
C'MON, LET'S GET TO WORK!


AT THAT MOMENT IN CYPRESS COUNTY FLORIDA CAPTAIN AMERICA SUDDENLY FINDS HIS CUSTOMIZED HARLEY-DAVIDSON OVERTAKEN BY A MAN ON FOOT!
WHIRLWIND!
YOU REMEMBER ME, DO YOU? GOOD!
CAPTAIN AMERICA

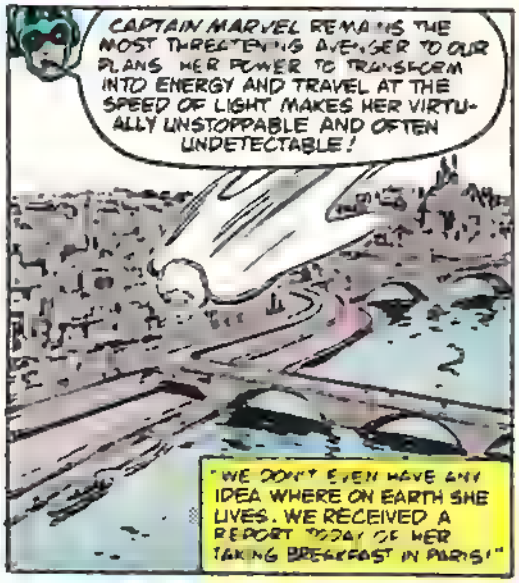

I LIKE IT WHEN MY VICTIMS KNOW WHO LAID THEM OUT!
HAD NO TIME TO STEP OFF THE BIKE! MUST GET MY SHIELD UP!

YOU'VE HAD IT, OLD TIMER! I GOT YOU NOWHUUF!
YOU? YOU DON'T EVEN TALK A GOOD FIGHT!
BUT AS AMERICA'S LIVING LEGEND MEETS THE THREAT OF THE MUTANT SPEEDSTER, THEIR BATTLE DRAWS THE ATTENTION OF THIS SWAMP'S MOST BIZARRE INHABITANT...

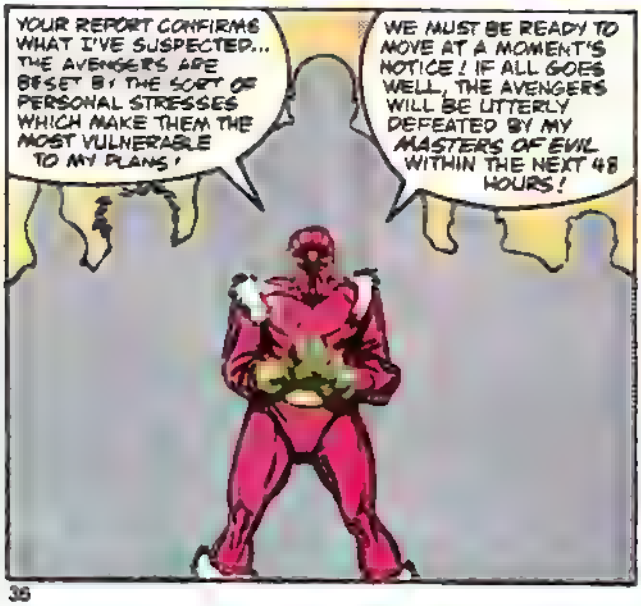

A SHAMBLING EMPATHIC MONSTER KNOWN AS THE MAN-THING. HE IS DRAWN FORTH BY THE INTENSE EMOTIONS OF THE COMBATANTS--BY ANGER... PAIN, FEAR!
AND WHATEVER KNOWS FEAR, BURNS AT THE TOUCH OF THE MAN-THING!

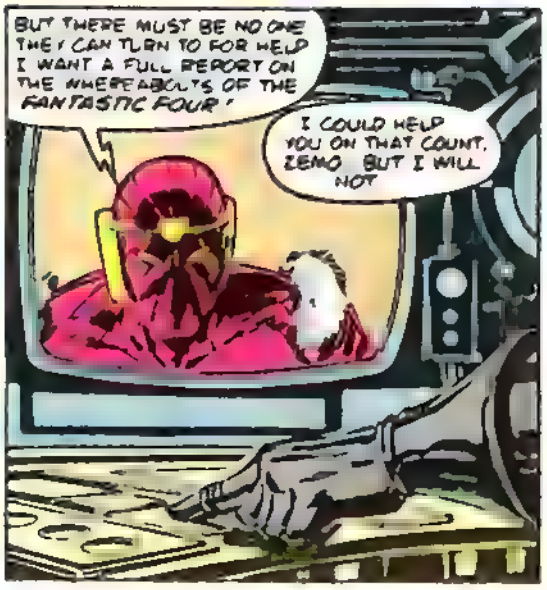

SOMETIME LATER, IN ZEMO'S RETREAT...
I'M AFRAID I HAVENT BEEN ABLE TO TRACK DOWN IRON MAN, BARON AND THERE'S BEEN NO WORD FROM WHIRLWIND FOR HOURS. YOU... AH... SENT HIM TO STOP CAPTAIN AMERICA.
NO, FIXER, I SENT HIM TO SLOW THE CAPTAIN DOWN! AN IDIOT SUCH AS WHIRLWIND COULD NEVER HOPE TO STOP CAPTAIN AMERICA!
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO UNCOVER ABOUT THE OTHER AVENGERS?

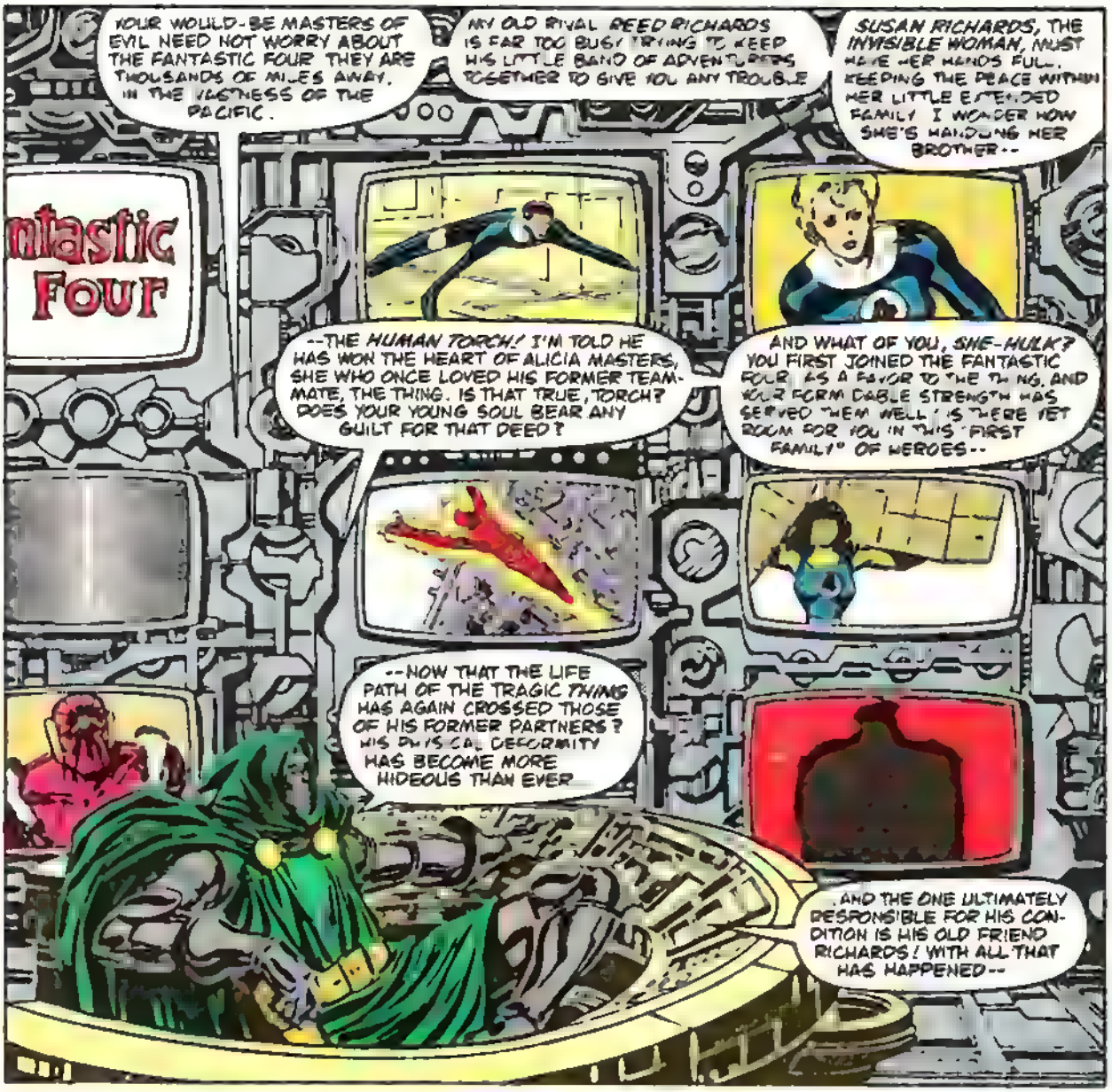
WELL, SIR... AT THIS MOMENT, OUR AGENTS REPORT THAT HERCULES IS MAKING THE ROUNDS OF SEVERAL EAST-SIDE TAVERNS. AS WE'VE LEARNED, HE'S GROWING DISSATISFIED WITH THE WASP'S LEADERSHIP OF THE AVENGERS.
AVENGERS


CAPTAIN MARVEL REMAINS THE MOST THREATENING AVENGER TO OUR PLANS. HER POWER TO TRANSFORM INTO ENERGY AND TRAVEL AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT MAKES HER VIRTUALLY UNSTOPPABLE AND OFTEN UNDETECTABLE!
"WE DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE ON EARTH SHE LIVES. WE RECEIVED A REPORT TODAY OF HER TAKING BREAKFAST IN PARIS!"

THE WASP IS MUCH EASIER TO KEEP TRACK OF. SHE'S NOW ATTENDING A CHARITY GALA... THE LOCAL NEWS MENTIONED HER BEING IN THE COMPANY OF AN INTERNATIONAL SOLDIER OF FORTUNE WHO CALLS HIMSELF PALADIN.
"I IMAGINE. THAT'S NOT SETTING VERY WELL WITH HER FELLOW AVENGER, THE BLACK KNIGHT... HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HER ESCORT!"


YOUR REPORT CONFIRMS WHAT I'VE SUSPECTED... THE AVENGERS ARE BESET BY THE SORT OF PERSONAL STRESSES WHICH MAKE THEM THE MOST VULNERABLE TO MY PLANS!
WE MUST BE READY TO MOVE AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE! IF ALL GOES WELL, THE AVENGERS WILL BE UTTERLY DEFEATED BY MY MASTERS OF EVIL WITHIN THE NEXT 48 HOURS!


BUT THERE MUST BE NO ONE THEY CAN TURN TO FOR HELP I WANT A FULL REPORT ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
I COULD HELP YOU ON THAT COUNT, ZEMO. BUT I WILL NOT


YOUR WOULD-BE MASTERS OF EVIL NEED NOT WORRY ABOUT THE FANTASTIC FOUR. THEY ARE THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY, IN THE VASTNESS OF THE PACIFIC.
MY OLD RIVAL REED RICHARDS IS FAR TOO BUSY TRYING TO KEEP HIS LITTLE BAND OF ADVENTURERS TOGETHER TO GIVE YOU ANY TROUBLE
SUSAN RICHARDS, THE INVISIBLE WOMAN, MUST HAVE HER HANDS FULL, KEEPING THE PEACE WITHIN HER LITTLE EXTENDED FAMILY. I WONDER HOW SHE'S HANDLING HER BROTHER--
ntastic Four
--THE HUMAN TORCH! I'M TOLD HE HAS WON THE HEART OF ALICIA MASTERS, SHE WHO ONCE LOVED HIS FORMER TEAMMATE, THE THING. IS THAT TRUE, TORCH? DOES YOUR YOUNG SOUL BEAR ANY GUILT FOR THAT DEED?
AND WHAT OF YOU, SHE-HULK? YOU FIRST JOINED THE FANTASTIC FOUR AS A FAVOR TO THE THING, AND YOUR FORMIDABLE STRENGTH HAS SERVED THEM WELL. IS THERE YET ROOM FOR YOU IN THIS "FIRST FAMILY" OF HEROES--
--NOW THAT THE LIFE PATH OF THE TRAGIC THING HAS AGAIN CROSSED THOSE OF HIS FORMER PARTNERS? HIS PHYSICAL DEFORMITY HAS BECOME MORE HIDEOUS THAN EVER
AND THE ONE ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS CONDITION IS HIS OLD FRIEND RICHARDS! WITH ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED--
--HOW CAN HE BEAR TO REMAIN WITH THE FANTASTIC FOUR FOR LONG? WELL, WE SHALL SEE. WE SHALL SEE!
IT WOULD APPEAR, HERR BARON ZEMO, THAT MY OLD FOES ARE EVEN MORE BESET WITH STRIFE THAN ARE YOUR CHOSEN ENEMIES
BUT DO NOT THINK THAT YOU WILL BE ALLOWED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S MISFORTUNE.
THAT IS THE PRIVILEGE OF DOCTOR DOOM... AND DOCTOR DOOM ALONE!

SWORDS OF THE SWASHBUCKLERS™

Bill Mantlo, writer; **Geof Isherwood**, artist. An Epic comic. Direct Sales only. Baxter paper. $1.50.

"Essentially, with the conquest of their planet, Haven, by **the Colonizers**, **Raader** and her pirates will become privateers who will hire themselves out to other planets who want and need protection from the **Colonizer** hordes," **Bill Mantlo** said. "This work for the different planets will continue through issue #12 when **Raader** will design a dangerous plan to attack the **Colonizer** homeworld itself."

the mighty THOR®

Walter Simonson, writer; **Sal Buscema**, artist. 75¢.

"Starting in #372, we will see **Hela** unfold a plan to get revenge on **Thor** for entering her Kingdom of the Dead and almost destroying it in his rescue of the mortal souls trapped there," **Walter Simonson** said. "What she will do is grant **Thor** a couple of gifts. One will be that he will never die. Since she is the Goddess of Death, that is well within her authority to grant. The other gift she grants him is that whenever he is wounded, he will not be able to heal.

"This will happen to **Thor** just as the Gods/Frost Giant war gets into full swing. The frost giants have decided that with **Odin** gone, now is the perfect time to attack Asgard. Since I've spent most of the recent issues in Asgard, a good part of this war is going to be played out on Earth.

"**Thor** will be repeatedly wounded, and since his body cannot repair itself, he will have trolls fashion splints and other supports to hold him together until he becomes this mass of splints propping up this almost pulverized flesh.

"**Thor** will eventually have to make the ultimate self-sacrifice to save Asgard."

Walter promised that **Thor** won't die, but that his body will be totally wrecked. What happens next is going to amount to huge change that is going to have serious ramifications to everyone who comes in contact with the new **Thor**. **Walter** didn't want to elaborate further, but he hinted that one of those plans could include the invincible menace called **the Destroyer**!

THUNDERCATS™

Gerry Conway, writer; **Jose Delbo**, penciler; **Joe Sinnott**, inker. A Star comic. 75¢.

The biggest news for **Thundercats** fans, and for Marvel readers everywhere, is the new creative team on THUNDERCATS. **Gerry Conway**, who has scripted just about every major Marvel title, is already planning to take **Lion-O** and his friends on some truly amazing adventures.

In issue #7, **Lion-O** has to make one of the most difficult decisions of his life when he is given the opportunity of returning to the **Thundercats'** homeworld of ThunDERa.

In issue #8, dissension strikes the ranks of **the Thundercats**, allowing the evil **S-s-slithe** and his hordes to seize **the Thundercats'** fortress, Cats' Lair.

THE SECRET LIFE OF... TOP DOG™

Dave Manak, writer; **Warren Kremer**, penciler; **Jon D'Agostino**, inker. A Star comic. 75¢.

Top Dog's master, **Joey Jordan**, knows that he's the world's smartest dog. The U.S. government knows he's a computer genius more intelligent than **Einstein**. And Star readers everywhere know that for **James Bond**-style adventure with a bite, there is only one place to go, and that's to **TOP DOG**!

Already **Top Dog** has saved the U.S. government from a disastrous crisis, averted war in the kingdom of Cashalot (home of the famous prince of a boy, **Royal Roy**!) *and* most amazingly of all, kept secret from everyone who shouldn't know—and that everyone specifically means **Joey's** nasty sister, **Liz**—the fact that he's the world's only ultra-smart talking dog!

Nothing is too big, or too small, for **Top Dog** to tackle! One day he might be helping **Joey** solve a crisis at school, the next, off on some globe-trotting mission of top secret importance. And soon to be introduced is the strangest brother a dog could have. Get ready to meet **Dirty Dog**! Things will never be the same again!

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE
THE TRANSFORMERS™

Bob Budiansky, writer; **Don Perlin**, penciler; **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**, inkers. 75¢.

"Basically what I plan on doing is have **the Transformers** split up into separate groups," **Bob Budiansky** said. "There will be more adventures featuring these little teams than ones using the whole group. Also, **the Transformers'** struggle on Earth will become more global. There will probably be more communication and interaction with their home planet, **Cybertron**, as well, now that we've established an interdimensional Space Bridge which will come more and more into play.

"So far I've introduced 61 **Transformeers** into the series. Over the next year I will be introducing quite a few more. I've got on file names and biographies for a total of 134 **Transformers**. I don't know if we will ever see all of them in the comic, but we might. A lot of the new **Transformers** we'll be seeing will be composed of individual teams of five or six **Transformers** who will be able to merge to form one giant **Transformer**. In issue #21 we will see the flying **Aerialbots** who can merge into **Superion**. In issue #22 there will debut **the Stunticons** who can merge into the giant **Menasor**. We will also be seeing **the Predacons** who can form the menacing **Prediking**. And there are **the Protectobots**, vehicles who can merge into the huge robot called **Defensor**.

"In issue #21 I will also be introducing **RAAT**—the **Rapid**

Anti-robot Assault Team. It is a special government team devoted exclusively to capturing or destroying **the Transformers**. It will be headed by the popular villain **Circuit-Breaker.**"

David Michelinie, writer; **Marc Silvestri**, penciler; **Kyle Baker**, inker. 75¢.

"Issue #19 is the prelude of a trip to Europe for **Peter Parker**," **David Michelinie** said. "Then for the next three issues we will have **Peter Parker** in Great Britain. He will be sent by **NOW** publisher **J. Jonah Jameson** to cover a major political statement on terrorism from Prime Minister **Margaret Thatcher** concerning the conflict in Northern Ireland.

"**Spider-Man** will find himself getting involved in that conflict. In #22, **Spider-Man** will encounter an anti-terrorist who works on his own, called **Solo.** I guess you could say **Solo** is a humanitarian anti-terrorist.

"After his adventures in Northern Ireland, **Peter** will return to the United States. When he returns, he'll start redesigning his webshooters because of the problems he had getting them through the airline checks. We are working out the details of that right now, but what I can say is that they will be made of space-age plastic and when **Peter** is done, he will have some new and improved web shooters and cartridge belt."

Steve Englehart, writer; **Al Milgrom**, penciler; **Joe Sinnott**, inker. 75¢.

"I plan to resolve **Tigra's** split-personality problem," **Steve Englehart** said. "I haven't figured out exactly what will happen, but it will certainly involve the Cat People and **Master Pandemonium**.

"After that, there will probably be an adventure where **Hawkeye** and **Mockingbird** go searching for **Firebird** in the Southwest. They will find her. And she will be changed. She will also have a new name.

"The three will stumble into **Kang's** time machine which was left there long ago when I did my **AVENGERS** stories featuring **the Two-Gun Kid**. So **Hawkeye**, **Mockingbird** and the person who was **Firebird** will go back in time and meet **the Two-Gun Kid**. It is unclear what will happen next, but I do know that **the Two-Gun Kid** will be having a difficult time with his life in the O d West since he had his adventure with **the Avengers** in what was for him the far future.

"Something I would like to do is continue to use **Wanda** and **the Vision**. An obvious concept is for them to join **the West Coast Avengers**, but since they have decided that they want to live in Leonia, New Jersey, it is kind of difficult. But it may be that **Wanda** and **the Vision** will go to the West Coast for a while."

Larry Hama, writer; **Ron Wilson**, penciler. 75¢.

"The theme of **Wolfpack** is that they are non-mutant teenage ninjas in the South Bronx who must fight a mysterious evil group called **the Nine** in order to keep the balance between good and evil in the world equal," **Larry Hama** said. "The stories will be very meaty, gutsy, intrigue-laden adventures that reflect the basic issues of their environment."

Also, **Larry** told us that the adventures will be taking place over the passage of real time with the result that the kids that we meet will grow older and eventually leave **the Wolfpack**, replaced by other, younger, kids who have been trained to take their places.

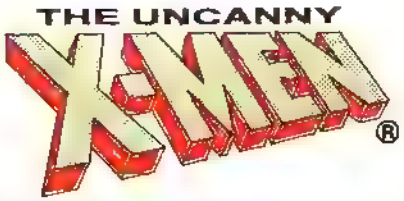
Louise Simonson, writer; **Walter Simonson**, penciler; **Bob Wiacek**, inker. 75¢.

"**X-FACTOR** is going to be tied in very closely with **X-MEN** continuity for the next five or six issues," **Louise Simonson** said. "And things are going to get a lot worse for **X-Factor** before they get better. Big Changes are the watchwords. Something terrible is going to happen to **the Angel** that is going to change his life and the way he sees himself.

"**Scott** is going off the deep end. He will begin to wonder if **Jean Grey** is really **Phoenix** after all, or if **Phoenix** really died in the first place. Eventually he is going to convince himself that **Jean** really is **Phoenix**, and that **Phoenix** is also his wife, **Madelyne**, and that, in reality, all three women are one and that he didn't do a bad thing leaving **Madelyne** because since she is really **Phoenix** who is **Jean**, he never left her in the first place.

"**Jean**, herself, will become more withdrawn from the others because she will become less and less sure about whom she can listen to and trust.

"**Caliban** of **the Morlocks** will join **X-Factor** and will become a mutant-tracker for our guys. He's going to be called a 'hound.' And we will see how that ties in with **THE X-MEN**."



Chris Claremont, writer; **John Romita Jr.**, penciler; **Dan Green**, inker. 75¢

"Lots will be happening in **THE X-MEN**," **Chris Claremont** said. "Death, destruction, mayhem—you name it, we'll do it. The book will be turned upside-down. There will be a number of major changes. As to whether or not they will be permanent, who can say? We will be introducing major new villains and new members will be joining the team: **Dazzler**, **Havok**, **Psylocke** and **Longshot**."

DAKOTA NORTH
INVESTIGATIONS
NEW YORK
PARIS
ROME
TOKYO
"HI! I'M DAKOTA NORTH. MY JOB IS TO PROTECT CHIC PEOPLE IN DANGER. THEY APPRECIATE HOW WELL I DO MY WORK... AND HOW GREAT I LOOK DOING IT!
"BASIC BLACK LEATHER IS RIGHT FOR MOST JOBS, BUT SOMETIMES, EVENING WEAR IS REQUIRED... DO PEARLS GO WITH THE .44 MAGNUM, OR DIAMONDS?"

WRITER: MARTHA THOMASES ★ ARTIST: TONY SALMONS

THE NEW UNIVERSE™ from Marvel Comics marks a revolution in comics equal to the birth of the Marvel Age in 1961.

During August, 1986, eight interrelated titles will be launched under the *New Universe* banner:

Star Brand™
Psi-Force™
Merc™
Nightmask™
Justice™
Spitfire and the Troublesheaters™
Kickers, Inc.™
D.P.7™

These titles chronicle the lives and adventures of the most amazing, intriguing, powerful beings in the universe. Their world is the world outside your window. Their adventures are spectacular, startling, dramatic, and yet real and true to life.

The New Universe is like nothing else ever done or attempted. For two and a half decades Marvel Comics has brought the fantastic to life. Now we are bringing *life* to the fantastic.

New Universe.

Starbrand™

There is a weapon in the universe more powerful than all others.

It is called the *Star Brand.*

There is no more coveted, feared, loved or hated thing in existence.

Now, this dreaded thing has fallen into the hands of Kenneth Connell, an Earthman.

Another man might crumble under the burden. The Star Brand brings its bearer pain, worry, suspicion, *fear*—fear that it will be wrested away into the wrong hands. Worse, fear that it *is* in the wrong hands. Another man might live only to pass the dreaded thing on, to find another bearer.

But Kenneth Connell is a man like no other.

Psi-Force™

One is a psychic healer. One can project his astral self. One is a telepath. One is telekinetic. One can use psionic power to explode things. All are teenage runaways, aged fifteen through eighteen. Their paranormal powers make them valuable commodities, which many individuals, organizations, even governments desire to exploit—or *destroy*, to keep them out of others' hands. One man tries to protect them. He gathers them and seeks a place of safety—but is murdered en route. The five discover, however, that as a group they can command

all of their paranormal abilities. This being, the *Psi Hawk*, is in the image of their fallen guardian.

Together, the five wage a guerilla war to protect themselves and others of their kind.

Merc™

Combat. It is what he does best.

He is *Mark Hazard*, a Vietnam veteran who has gone on to become a soldier of fortune, selling his fighting and leadership abilities to military causes he believes in—or, at least, can live with.

Hazard has been through all the training: Rangers, Special Forces, Recondo School in 'Nam, HALO, and the Royal Jungle Tracking School of Malaysia. He is a West Point dropout who then served three tours in Vietnam, mostly as part of the Special Mission Team operation, deep in enemy territory.

Throughout his life, Hazard has been a misfit, at odds with his parents, schools, and with authority in general. In combat, he found himself. Having been on the edge, close to danger, he has not been able to adjust to living less intensely. Being a mercenary is what he does to feel whole.

It has cost him. His wife *Joan*, whom he still loves, has divorced him and remarried. Another man, *Gordon Landry*, a stable, secure business executive, has taken his place with his wife, and is raising Hazard's twelve-year-old son, Scott. In addition, his father died never having forgiven Mark for quitting the Point. His mother, an old-fashioned army wife, still holds that grudge, and adds to it her disapproval over Mark's giving up on Vietnam and the Army when he decided it was a war we shouldn't be in.

Thus, the other Mercs fighting at his side are Mark's only true family.

There will be poignancy, humor and drama in *Merc*, but blazing *action* will be the mainstay.

Combat is what Mark Hazard does best.

Nightmask™

In the dead of night you walk down a bleak, forbidding street where harsh lights deepen the shadows. You are alone, afraid.

Then he appears. Someone else. Someone who does not *belong* here, a dark figure in the distance. He opens a door and beckons you toward comfort and safety.

Suddenly you are inside. It is warm. There are indistinct and yet familiar others here, others who *belong* here. Awash in amber light, lying on satin pillows, they invite you to taste forbidden passions.

Then you realize that the one who does not belong is still with you. From behind a voile curtain, he watches. You see him shift nervously and avert his eyes. He looks young.

You are alone again in a windswept wasteland, where a chasm yawns. The edge where you stand crumbles. You fall. But a hand seizes yours. The one who does not belong pulls you back, straining. Your eyes seek his face. It is *masked*.

He turns, as though a voice unheard were calling him. Then he is gone. You awaken, and the memory of your dreams fades.

Elsewhere, *Keith Remsen* emerges from a deep trance, and as he does, the *mask* fades from his face, diminishing until it is only a crescent-shaped scar on his forehead. Beside Keith in her wheelchair sits his younger sister Theodora, "Teddy" for short. Hers was the voice that summoned him home. Though she cannot move in dreams as he does, she can psychically monitor his experiences, and serves as his anchor in reality.

Under the auspices of Dr. Lucian Ballad, and Teddy's physical therapist, Lita Mercado, Keith and Teddy are a unique and selective psychoanalytical consulting service, helping the seriously disturbed by working through their dreams. Hidden by his psychophysically manifested *Nightmask*, Keith remains anonymous in their clients' dreams, and is protected from their psychological defenses.

The adventures of Nightmask will range from wildest fantasy to starkly frightening reality, to the humorous and delightful. The dangers, however, are always real, and dream-death for Nightmask means very real death for Keith..

There are others, cruel and murderous others like the *Gnome*, who move through dreams, opposing Nightmask, and seeking to further their evil ends.

The joys and jagged edges of the "hard" world, too, loom large. There are problems born of the weight of the awesome responsibility shared by eighteen year-old Keith and his thirteen year-old sister, Teddy's natural jealousy over Keith's mobility in this world and beyond, and the other trials of growing up too fast.

Fantastic adventure, intrigue, and moving personal drama.

Nightmask

Justice™

The stranger is oddly dressed. Oddly enough to excite the curiosity of the back-alley scum who mean to rob him, and, oh, yes, beat him senseless for fun. They want to know who he *is* first.

His eyes seem to glow red as he studies them for an intense instant. Then he lifts his right arm and with waves of searing energy from his hand blows them into nothingness.

"I am *Justice*."

He was a warrior and law officer in his own world. He has awesome powers—to *destroy*, to *shield* and *protect*, and to read the true nature of a man in his aura.

How he came to this place he cannot remember. But this he knows—the good must be protected and the evil must be exterminated. Even on this strange new world.

However...

Quickly, Justice begins to find that our world is far more complicated than his own, far less clearly divided into camps of good and evil. He finds himself *pursued* by people who, by his "reading" are good—most notably *Rebecca Chambers* from the Department of Justice, and *Hoyt Pittman*, a hardnosed law-and-order FBI agent. Most troubling is that even someone who reads "good" like Rebecca also seems to carry the potential for evil.

Rebecca faces a similar dilemma. At first, she is appalled by Justice and what he does, but then gradually, after several encounters, she becomes uncertain about pursuing him—and eventually even *attracted* to him.

Pittman, too, gains a grudging respect for Justice, though he's no less determined to end his vigilante

career.

In the meantime, however many are the wicked who taste the wrath of *Justice*.

Spitfire and the Troubleshooters™

She cares about what's *right*, not what the rules say. And she's never been mellow or easy going. She's *Jenny Swensen*, a highly respected full Professor of Applied Engineering at M.I.T., though nobody calls her 'ma'am,' or "Professor" or anything too dignified. Her daddy called her "Spitfire" before he died.

Or was murdered.

Jenny suspects that her father, a renowned research scientist, was killed by his employers after he learned how they intended to *use* his revolutionary discoveries in huer'stics, and before he could destroy his work.

With Dr. Henning Swensen's death, the products of his research were claimed by Karl Krotze, his employer. Legally. There is nothing Jenny can do. Legally. But she cares about what's *right*.

With the aid of five outstanding M.I.T. students—the fun-loving type who assemble a backhoe earthmover in the Dean's fifth floor office for an evening's entertainment—she steals from Krotze her father's *entire lab*, including his technological masterpiece, the *M.A.C.S. (Man Amplified Construction Suit)*.

Krotze wants the M.A.C.S. back. His aim, to develop it into highly marketable *combat* armor. He has considerable resources, all devoted to reclaiming "his" suit. And the law is on his side.

Jenny and her friends find themselves using the M.A.C.S. to wage war on Krotze while constantly evading the law. The irony does not escape her—she *herself* is perverting her father's invention, using it as a weapon. And yet, what choice does she have? The r cause is *just*.

Spitfire and her compufer-hacking comrades, the *Troubleshooters* are ready to risk their careers, their freedom, even their *lives* for justice.

And if it's *fun* along the way, well so much the better.

Kickers, Inc.™

"Men want to be like him. Women want to be *with* him."

—Sports writer Pat Donovan, *N.Y. Daily News*, in reference to N.Y. Smashers all-pro quarterback Jack Magnicomo.

"...one of the ten greatest all-around athletes of the century."

—Mort Weisman of *The Sporting News*, also re: Magnicomo.

"Mr. Magnificent does it again!"

—Cover headline, *Sports Illustrated*, after Magnicomo and the Smashers clinched their third consecutive division crown.

"Yum!"

—Uncredited, *Playgirl* Magazine.

Jack Magnicomo, highest paid professional athlete in the world, perhaps the most gifted phys cal specimen to wear a football uniform since Jim Brown, has a problem. Yesterday, suddenly, by means he can't understand, he became much stronger, much faster than before.

It cost him the life of his brother.

And that's just the beginning.

He'd always thought that winning wasn't everything—it was the *only* thing. But now he's not so sure. Now he can score on every possession. Every *play* if he wants to. And why not play defense, too? He doesn't *tire* now. Not like normal men. With him as linebacker no one would ever score against the Smashers again.

If the other teams knew about him...they wouldn't even dare to take the field.

So *now* what? Hold back? Sandbag? Play just hard enough to win? Or *give up* the only thing he ever wanted to do?

What would *Steve* have wanted? Steve, who lost his l fe trying to help Jack gain that extra edge so many athletes crave. Jack lusted for it—as if he *needed* any more advantage—! Now he has it. In spades. Beyond his wildest imaginings. *Now* what?

"Give something back to the world." That's what Steve would have said. "You've got it *all*, Jack. You owe something to them that *don't*."

How? Give up the game? Do charity work? Run a soup kitchen?

Nah.

There must be *something* he can do that helps people but is also exciting, outrageous...maybe even dangerous. Something he and a few of his closest buddies could go in together on, mostly in the off season. Something that meant adventure. Fun!

Tax deductible wouldn't hurt either.

Then it hits him.

You've never seen anything like Kickers, Inc.

D.P.7.™

"I'm too big, too...terrifying. In the streets, in stores, wherever I go, people are afraid of me...or pretend not to see me. Except the children. They point at me, and ask why I'm so huge and why my face is so ugly. Sometimes I just want to be dead."

—Dave Landers.

"I don't care what they say, I don't care who points and stares. I know I could kill them if I wanted."

—Dennis Cuzinski.

"Each of us has...a problem that no one else in the world shares. Each of us is a minority of one."

—Lenore Fenzl.

"Maybe it'll comfort you to know that they're lumping us all together—all the weird cases they don't have pigeonholes for. They're calling us *paranormals*.

'I used to be a doctor. Look at me. What am I now? Oh, God, *what am I now?*"

Dr. Randy O'Brien.

"You're a mess, man. Just like the rest of us. But you ain't the worst. No way. Look at me. *Try* to look at me. I dare you."

—Jeff Walters.

"I guess I'm not so badly off. But...how am I going to live? How can I get a job? They'd find out pretty quickly that...I'm not the same as them. And then...*then* what?"

Charlotte Beck.

"Oh, I could get a *job*, all right. They can *use* what I can do. They'd use me...till I dropped. And then my body'd end up in a lab someplace...*right*, doctor? *Right?!*"

—Stephanie Harrington.

Seven people, out of place in the world. Seven people, afraid of what they are, afraid of what might become of them.

Seven of the most dangerous be ngs ever to walk the Earth.

D.P.7.

ANNUAL
48 BIG PAGES
ANNUAL
MARVEL AGE
#2
1963
© 1986 MARVEL COMICS GROUP
TM
MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP
50¢
Howell/Mucci
(After Jack Dan)
Steve Dick
Bill & Joe

INTRODUCTION

First of all, let me level with you. What you are about to read is a total fraud. But it's also the absolute truth!

And if that little preamble doesn't grab you, I'll never write another intro again!

Okay, explanation time. This reprint of **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** from 1963 that you're about to rapturously read is a fraud because—we didn't *have* a **MARVEL AGE** mag in '63!

But (and with us there's always a but!) it's the absolute truth, the honest-to-Forbush genuine article because—all the Newswatch items and letters are 100% bona fide, as real as **Benjamin Grimm**'s temper tantrums, and we're presenting them to you exactly as they appeared in those grand and glorious days when Marvel was a-bloomin' and baby **Jimmy Shooter** was only six-foot-two!

But, before you joyously jump into the literary wonderment that awaits you, let's pause a moment to pay homage to the year 1963, and to the nostalgic little treasures that Marvel so generously bestowed upon a grateful public lo, those many years ago.

In the summer of '63 we published only thirteen titles dated September, and four Annuals. Of course, that was a mere bagatelle compared to the more than forty which Marvel now passionately presents to posterity each and every month. However, you must remember (unless you want to fail the course!) that we had a much, much smaller staff at that time. How much smaller? Well, there was **Jolly Solly Brodsky**, our production man; **Adorable Artie Simek**, our letterer; **Sterling Stan Goldberg**, our colorist and cartoonist, a writer, editor and art director whose last name escapes me (although his nicknames were **Smilin' Stan** and **Stan the Man**); three or four other freelance writers and a handful of artists, headed by a couple of guys named **Kirby** and **Ditko** who were destined to become as legendary themselves as the masterpieces they so miraculously produced. And that was about it, Bunky, except for **Merry Martin Goodman**, our peerless ex-publisher, who provided the shekels that made it all possible. (And who'll probably never talk to me again for mentioning him last!)

Well, so much for name dropping. Now let's get to the nitty gritty. Actually, we'll tackle the nitty first, and leave the gritty for next time.

Countless people (**Charlie Countless** and his nephew, **Sam**) have asked me what those early days in the Marvel Bullpen were really like. Actually, it was so long ago that it wasn't even really a bullpen, it was more like a tiny playpen. But that's what was so great about it. We were all like a tiny little task force, a group of enthusiastic graphic-story groupies who were willing to try anything and everything in our cavortin' crusade to make comic-books more than just some casual, throwaway reading for the masses.

We did super hero stories, western yarns, teenage humor strips, fantasy tales, girls' romances, war stories, hey—we'd have done cooking recipes in Sanskrit if we thought there'd be an audience for 'em!

But why should I simply tell you about the type of mags we so titanically turned out when you can experience the excitement yourself by reading the Marvel Comics Coming Attractions From The Summer of '63 just ahead! (That may sound like I have your best interests at heart, but actually my typing fingers are getting tired. I mean, after more than forty years, what the hey!)

Look, it's been a blast visiting with you on these couple of pages. Let's make a habit of it. What say we get together twenty-five years from now and do it again, okay? Till then, never take a molar from a capricious crocodile! (Aw, don't worry about it—I don't know what that means either.)

Excelsior!

Stan

MARVEL AGEnda

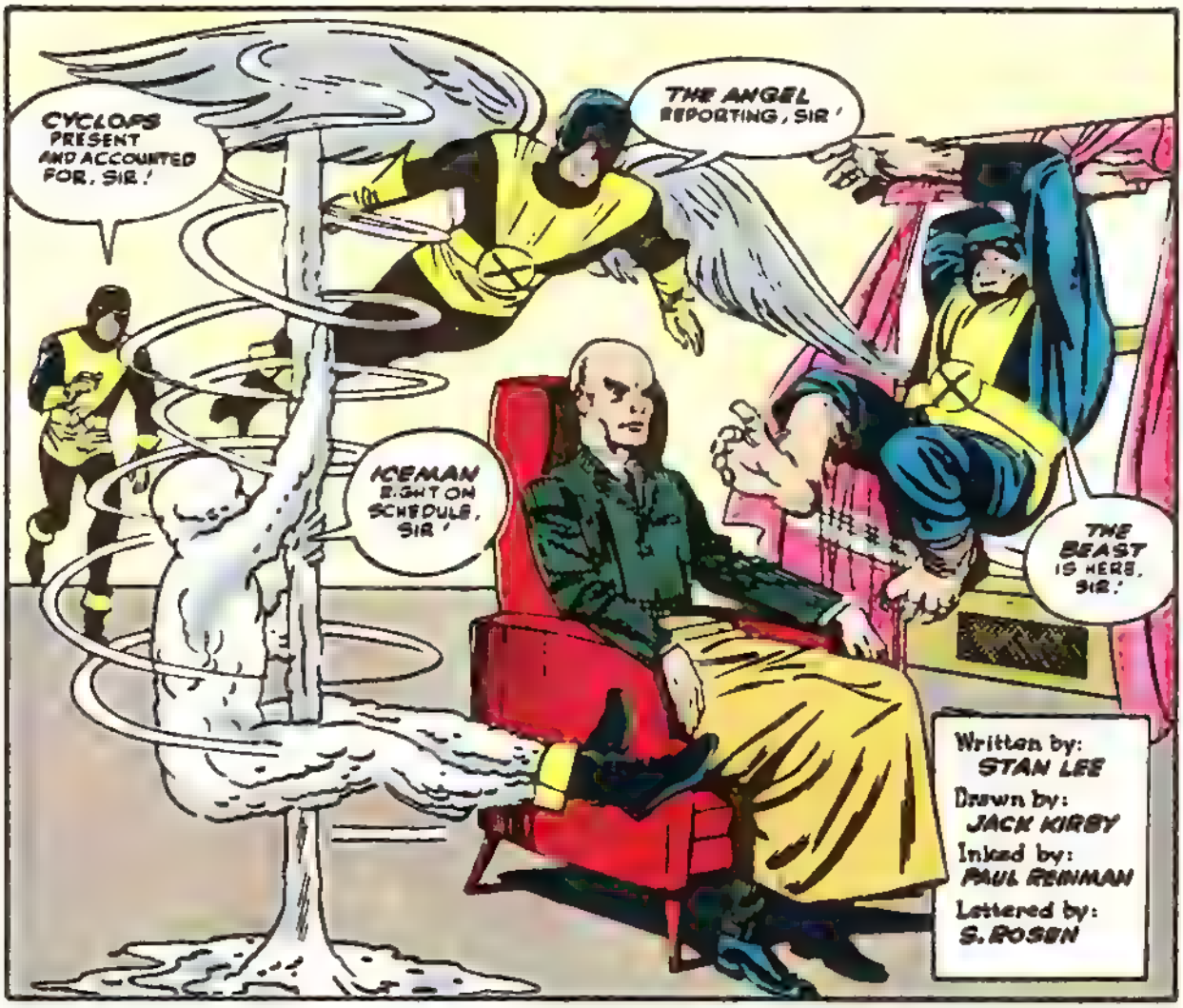
Coming Attractions 1
Li'l Fred 3
Newswatch 3
Atlas Age 4
Jack Kirby 5
Letters 5

CREDITS FOR 1963 SECTION

COMING ATTRACTIONS
Compiled by *Kurt Busiek*, *Richard Howell*, *Trina Robbins*, *George Olshevsky*, *Fred Hembeck* and *Randall Scott*
LI'L FRED
by *Fred Hembeck*
NEWSWATCH
by *Stan Lee*, compiled by *Kurt Busiek*
ATLAS AGE
by *Sholly Fisch*
JACK KIRBY BY JACK KIRBY
by *Jack Kirby*
LETTERS PAGE
by *Stan Lee*, compiled by *Kurt Busiek*

MARVEL COMICS COMING ATTRACTIONS

Here's a complete list of what's happening in all the Marvel comics bearing a September cover date. And what a list!! Two new titles! Guest-stars galore! Four Annuals! And more all-out action than even we thought possible! So bolt down to your newsstand right now and reserve all your favorites before they sell out!


CYCLOPS PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR, SIR!
THE ANGEL REPORTING, SIR!
ICEMAN RIGHT ON SCHEDULE, SIR!
THE BEAST IS HERE, SIR!
Written by: STAN LEE
Drawn by: JACK KIRBY
Inked by: PAUL REINMAN
Lettered by: S. ROSEN

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #4—The hardest blows can't bruise him! The strongest cages can't hold him! Sound like we're talkin' about our web-slinging wonder? **Spidey** only wishes we *were*—'cause he's just discovered that "Nothing Can Stop The Sandman!" Script by **Stan Lee**, art by **Steve Ditko**. 12¢

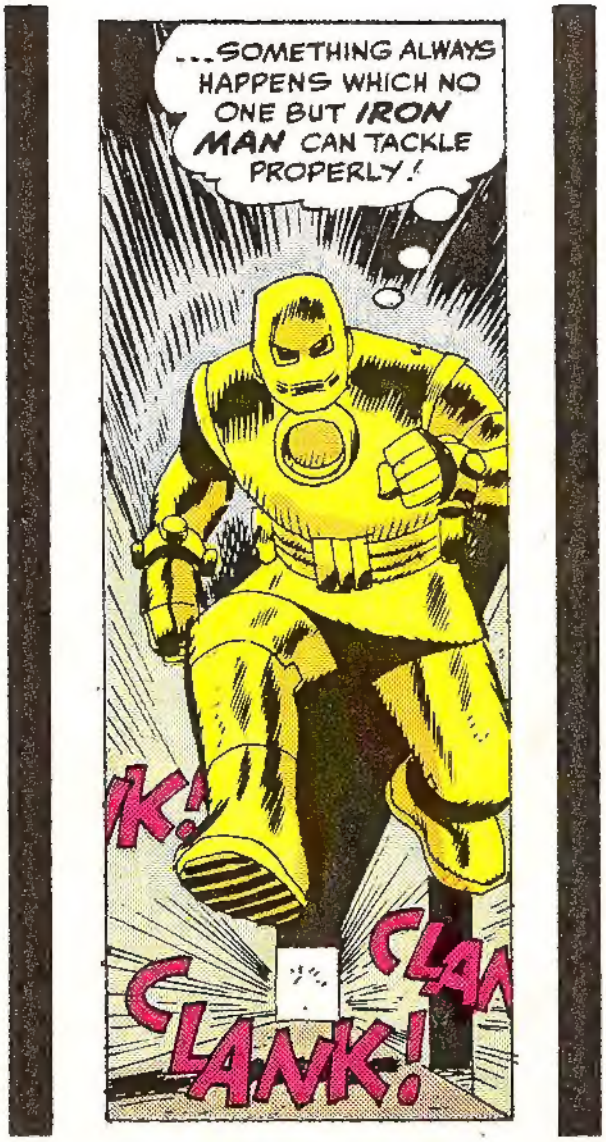
AVENGERS #1—The mighty **Thor**! The invincible **Iron Man**! The incredible **Hulk**! **Ant-Man** and the winsome **Wasp**! And they're all standing together—against the power of **Loki**! How can you miss it? "The Coming Of The Avengers!" is scripted by **Stan Lee**, with art by **Jack Kirby** and **Dick Ayers**. 12¢.

FANTASTIC FOUR #18—What would you call an incredible alien menace with all the powers of the fabulous **FF**? **The Fantastic *One*?** Well, we call him **the Super Skrull**, and believe us, he's trouble! "A Skrull Walks Among Us!" is scripted by **Stan Lee** with art by **Jack Kirby** and **Dick Ayers**. 12¢.

FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #1—**The Sub-Mariner's** been a thorn in **the FF's** sides almost as long as there has *been* an **FF**. Now see what happens when he finds out what happened to his long-lost undersea race—and *really* gets mad! "Sub-Mariner Vs The Human Race!" is by **Stan Lee** and **Jack Kirby**, with inks by **Dick Ayers**. Plus our special features: "Rogues Gallery," "Questions And Answers About The FF," "The Fabulous Fantastic Four Meet Spider-Man," and "The Origin of the Fantastic Four." 25¢.

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #96—**Thor** faces a threat direct from those halcyon days of yore—**King Arthur's** court of Camelot! "The Mad Merlin!" is plotted by **Stan Lee** and scripted by **R. Berns**, with art by **Joe Sinnott**. Plus a pair of chilling journeys into mystery: "Call Her Medusa," and "Frederick Fenton's Future." 12¢

KID COLT OUTLAW #112—The town of Eagle Pass laughed when chubby **Bennington Brown** arrived, announcing himself as a deadly gunslinger—but he soon turned their guffaws into gasps of terror! Eagle Pass is doomed—unless **Kid Colt** can discover the secrets of "The Unbeatable Mr Brown!" Written by **Stan Lee** with art by **Jack Keller**. Plus two more wild-and-wooly Western thrillers: "Fury In The Streets," and "The Fastest Gun " 12¢.



MILLIE THE MODEL #116—**Prince Charming** of Charmania is in New York to find a bride! Will **Millie** become princess of Charmania—or will **Chili** foil everything? The answers are in "Millie Meets Prince Charming!" Written by **Stan Lee** with art by **Stan Goldberg**. Plus two more sure-fire laff riots: "The Cover Girls," and "Millie Saves The World!" 12¢.

MILLIE THE MODEL ANNUAL #2—Step into the glamorous romantic world of modelling . . . and let **Millie** be your guide! Featuring: "A Proposal For Millie," "The Tele-Visions," "Girl Talk," "Toni's Tragic Tale," "Millie and Chili Bury The Hatchet," "Chili Gets Her Man," "The Burglar And The Beauty," "Thru The Years With Millie," "A Girl And Her Clothes," "It's News To Her," "Out Of This World," "Show Us The Way To Go Home," "Let's Visit The Library," "Hanover Loses His Head," "A Peach At The Beach," "A Kiss For A Miss," "Dear Diary," "Chili, the Heroine" and "Advice To The Lovelorn." 25¢.

PATSY AND HEDY ANNUAL #1—Here it is! The magazine you demanded! 72 fabulous pages . . . chock full of fun, fashions, and frankly feminine foolishness!! Check out these titles: "Millie The Model in Centerville," "Mr. Krautmann's New Scale," "Mayor For A Day," "Mickey's Favorite Western," "A New Job For Mr. Walker," "The Red Dress," "Picnic Baskets," "Talking About Boys," "A Phone In Her Room," "Buzz Grows Long Hair," "The Motor Scooter," "Reducing Plan," "TV Westerns," "Aunt Liz, Fashion Editor," "Her Pick Of Boys," "Hair Style," "Taxi Driver," "Bathing Suit Contest," "Asian Flu," and "Greg Strong, Bachelor Client." 25¢.

PATSY WALKER #109—There's a dead ringer for **Patsy** in Centerville—and she's helping **Hedy Wolfe** put **Patsy** and **Buzz's** romance on the skids! "Patsy's Troublesome Twin!" is written by **Stan Lee** and drawn by **Al Hartley**. Plus two more yarns to yuk with: "Patsy's Big Moment," and "No Time For Nan!" 12¢.

SERGEANT FURY AND HIS HOWLING COMMANDOS #3—It's "Midnight On Massacre Mountain!" and wait until you see who **the Howlers** link up with in this no-holds-barred thriller! We'll give you a hint—he and three friends star in another of our mighty mags, and frankly, the four of them are fantastic! Script by **Stan Lee**, art by **Jack Kirby** and **Dick Ayers**. 12¢.

STRANGE TALES #112—**The Human Torch** is in enough trouble in this month's **FANTASTIC FOUR** and the first-ever **FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL**—the last thing he needs is to run into a brand new super menace! But try explaining that to the awesome **Eel**—before he kills you! "The Living Bomb!" is plotted by **Stan Lee**, scripted by **Joe Carter** and drawn by **Dick Ayers**. Plus two more tales of the strange: "The Man Who Dared," and "I Saw The Impossible World!" 12¢.

STRANGE TALES ANNUAL #2—**The Human Torch**, who's just everywhere this month, is "On The Trail Of The Amazing Spider-Man!" But **Spidey's** on the trail of **the Fox**! And when two teenaged titans tangle over a cunning criminal, you won't want to miss all the action! Script by **Stan Lee**, pencils by **Jack Kirby** and inks by **Steve Ditko**. Plus, nine certified shockers from our vaults of the surprising: "I was The Invisible Man," "I Was A Prisoner On The Planet Of Plunder," "I Am Robot," "Worlds Within Worlds," "I Was The Man Who Lived Twice," "Prison 2000 A.D.," "I Am The Scourge Of Atlantis," "Nightmare Planet," and "I Captured The Abominable Snowman." 25¢.

TALES OF SUSPENSE #45—We could ballyhoo this little masterpiece by pointing out that it's got a new villain who's out to give **Iron Man** the cold shoulder—and how! But we'd rather let you know that this ish introduces **"Happy" Hogan** and **"Pepper" Potts**—and with them in the story, **Tony Stark's** life will never be the same! "The Icy Fingers Of Jack Frost!" is plotted by **Stan Lee**, scripted by **R. Berns**, and drawn by **Don Heck**. Plus: "I Come From Far Centaurus!," a suspenseful tale from the imaginations of **Stan Lee, Larry Leiber** and **Matt Fox**. 12¢.

TALES TO ASTONISH #47—**Ant-Man** and the wondrous **Wasp** face off against **Trago**, a megalomaniacal menace to music lovers everywhere! "Music To Scream By!" is plotted by **Stan Lee**, scripted by **H.E. Huntley**, and drawn by **Don Heck**. Plus, a brace of astonishing tales: "The Smiling Gods," and "Target Earth." 12¢.

TWO-GUN KID #65—**Two Gun** and **Boom Boom** are really in for it this time—as they try to stave off the attack of a giant Apache chief who threatens to crush a cavalry outpost! "Nothing Can Save Fort Henry!" is written by **Stan Lee** with art by **Dick Ayers**. Plus a pair of sizzling action stories hotter than a smoking six-gun: "Too Frightened To Fight" and "The Wrath of The Two-Gun Kid." 12¢.

X-MEN #1—Meet **Cyclops, Marvel Girl, the Angel, the Beast** and **Iceman**—five teenagers with something extra—mutant powers! Along with the mysterious **Professor X**, they may be Earth's only hope against the menace of **Magneto**! You'll kick yourself for years if you miss this one! "X-Men!" is scripted by **Stan Lee**, with art by **Jack Kirby** and **Paul Reinman**. 12¢.

THE ATLAS AGE — 1954 (PART II)

Hello and welcome back to our titanic two-part look at the wild and wooly world of Marvel (oops, we mean Atlas), 1954! Last time, we traveled through America with **CAPTAIN AMERICA** and **THE HUMAN TORCH**, the old West with **KID COLT OUTLAW**, and Earth and Uranus with **Marvel Boy** in **ASTONISHING TALES**! This time, we'll cover some more of **Cap's** and **the Torch's** adventures from the pages of **YOUNG MEN**—and of course, we'd never forget about **MILLIE THE MODEL** and **PATSY WALKER**!

Perhaps 1954's biggest news came for **THE SUB-MARINER**, though. In the pages of his own series, **Namor**, his equally amphibious companion **Namora**, and his girlfriend **Betty Dean** were fighting Russian agents and dealing with various aquatic menaces like giant octopi and an undersea civilization which was abducting surface people and forcing them into slavery! Even **Namor** didn't realize that when he brought the queen of that civilization to the surface to face justice, she would crumble into a skeleton! But the more important news was to be found in **the Sub-Mariner's** adventures in **YOUNG MEN**, courtesy of the man who created him in 1939, **Bill Everett**! **The King of Atlantis** came to the stunning realization that **Namor** had been slowly losing his superhuman powers! He had a machine built to recharge **Namor**, and sure enough, it restored **Namor's** strength, invulnerability, and power of flight! But there was a catch! Now that **Namor** was back to his old self, **the King** wanted him to resume his one-man war on the surface world! **Namor** didn't want to fight his surface friends (like **Betty**), but he had to do as he was commanded! (Readers of recent issues of **THE FANTASTIC FOUR** know that **Namor** doesn't worry about such things anymore, though!) Fortunately, **Namor** was able to limit his war to the Russians and America's other enemies, using Atlantean science to accomplish amazing feats like freezing Russian ships in their tracks!

But when it came to fighting the Communists, no one could do it better than **Captain America** and **Bucky**! Drawn by talented young artist **John Romita**, **Cap** and **Bucky** did their bit in **YOUNG MEN** by helping to rescue American prisoners of war in Korea and by protecting America's valuable atomic weapons tests against the likes of the beautiful but deadly Russian spy, **The Executioner**! (By the way, the other day, we asked **Stan** whatever became of **Cap**, and the Smilin' One's eyes lit up! Hmm . . .)

Rounding out the **YOUNG MEN** lineup, **the Human Torch** and **Toro** spent most of their time fighting common criminals. (Well, somebody had to keep the streets safe while **Cap** and **Namor** were fighting spies!) He battled fearsome menaces like a gang that planned to loot and destroy all of New York City! But **the Torch's** high point of the year probably came when he, too, took action against Red spies! A band of Communists had

(continued on page 32)

JACK KIRBY BY JACK KIRBY

And thus I was born, amidst questions . . . questions . . . "Can it be a leprechaun?" asked **Mrs. Rafferty**. "A prince of the blood, maybe?" laughed **Mrs. Goldberg**. "Not that anemic runt," replied the good doctor as he shot a compassionate glance at my mother and handed my father the bill. Not quite convinced that he'd made medical history, the dazed physician clattered down three flights of unswept stairs and into the first rays of dawn. The place, New York City. The date, August 28th, 1917. It turned out to be a gloomy day like all the others. And I was there.

I was there thru rickety childhood, thru obnoxious and sullen adolescence, in the shadow of the chipped, brick walls of the slum, my first drawing board.

Frustrated by bad spelling, I turned to bad drawing and improved both enough in my late teens to land a job in a small syndicate servicing weekly newspapers. From there to the **Max Fleischer** animation studios—where, for negligible wages, I learned that the human body, in motion, has value and beauty. When **Popeye** and **Betty Boop** took the initial steps to throw their pies, it was my job to complete the movement and speed of the action. This operation was called in-betweening.

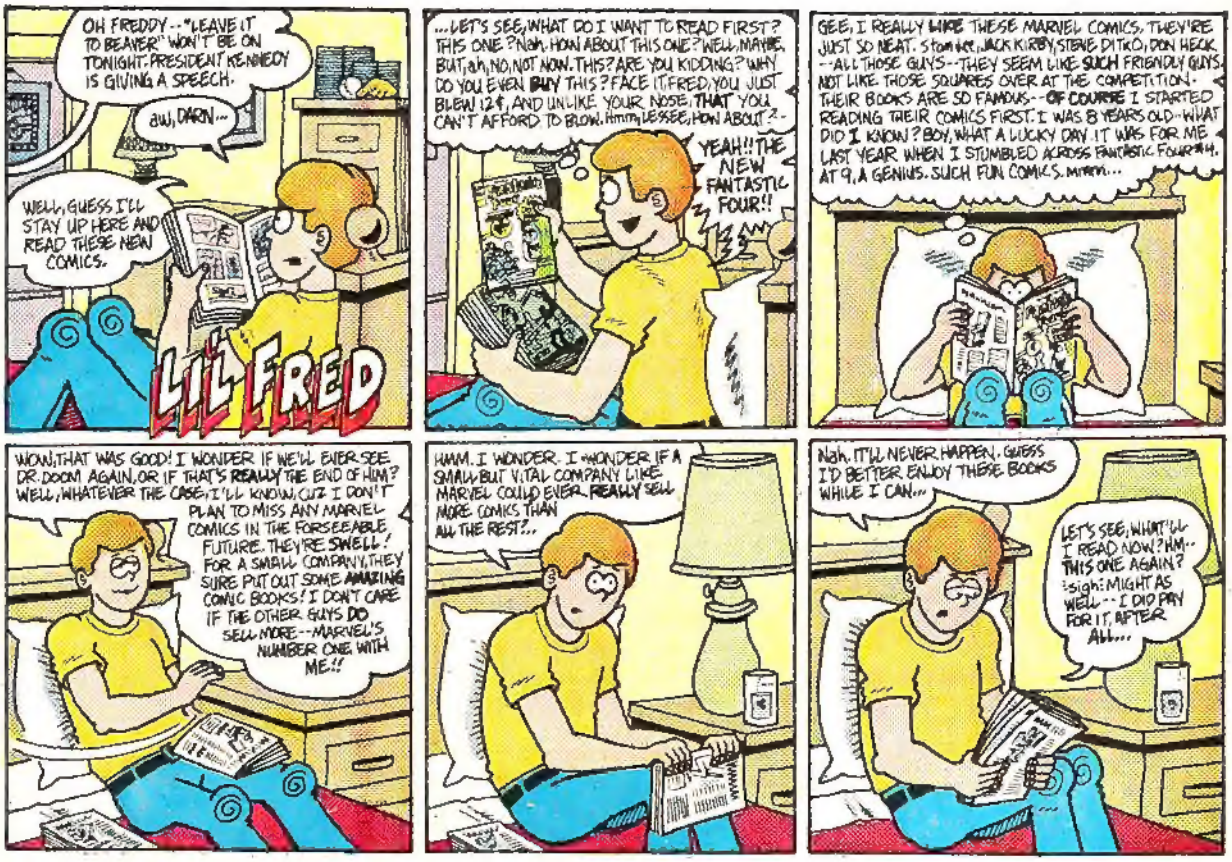
When comic magazines blossomed as a field, I leaped in and drew for anyone who would let me tell a story. I became a variety of names, unleashing a torrent of diverse characters, among them **the Blue Beetle**, the first **Captain Marvel**. Super heroes were replacing human beings, and even dressed in glamorized underwear, they looked great in the wild blue yonder and added a new dimension to the lives of the comic fans.

While working on **Captain America** for Marvel Comics in the dawning "forties," I was producing at a furious rate. I remember slowing down only once, when a young rapscallion, peering into my cubicle suggested that I show more of **Cap's** home life, his aged, kindly mother, his wicked **Aunt Agatha**, and the stark, heart-rending background of **Cap's** early years. "Begone!" I cried, sorely put to drubbing him. "Take off and become an editor or something!" Well, by golly, he did. But before he got the name **Stan Lee** on his office door, I was busily engaged elsewhere, with **the Boy Commandos**, **Newsboy Legion**, **Sandman**, **Manhunter**, and other features. The comic field was producing heroes while the world at large came up with villains to match. **Hitler**, **Tojo**, **Mussolini**, and the mess of miscreants stomping in their wake. Things got so bad during the period following Pearl Harbor, they finally drafted me. Then things got so bad in the Army, they actually used me in battle. At Metz, in France, serving in **General Patton's** Third Army, I was frozen into immobility by the sight of the advancing armor of the **Heinrich Himmler** Field Kitchen Panzers of the Waffen SS. I'd created another first, the "Human Road Block." This won me a PFC stripe and a lot of colorful language from my First Sergeant.

Well, the world just couldn't go on that way. The Axis powers, faced down by men raised side by side with super heroes, had had it. Everyone hustled out of uniform and began raising families. I invaded Harvey Comics, drawing **Stuntman**, **Boy Explorers**, **Boys Ranch**. Rushing into other strips, I did a teen-age feature called **My Date**, an adventure satire named **The Flying Fool**, and a bit of whimsy labeled **The Rich Rabbit**. There was nothing to be done then but innovate romance comics, pulverize the underworld in **Headline Comics** and **Justice Traps The Guilty**, and play **Edgar Allen Poe** in **Black Magic**. With **Fighting American**, I was ready for laughs. But fooling with the 3D madness and **Captain 3D** gave me the vapors. When I came out of the fog, I found I'd also done **Win-A-Prize Comics**, **Bullseye**, **Foxhole**, and **Police Trap**. Compounding these concoctions, I stumbled into **Green Arrow** and kept things humming by creating **the Challengers Of The Unknown** and a syndicated strip called **"Sky Masters."**.

Returning to Marvel Comics was like re-entering the Halls of Ivy. In charge of comics was that young rascal, and, now, a bit of an older rascal, **Stan Lee**. We now share ideas, laughs, and stubby cigars. As for all the people who make Marvel what it is, no one could respect them more than I. And that includes our readers.

I have a wife named **Rosalind**, three lovely daughters, **Susan**, **Barbara** and **Lisa** and a fine son named **Neal**. To put it concisely, you name it, I've done it—but fairly.


OH FREDDY--"LEAVE IT TO BEAVER" WON'T BE ON TONIGHT. PRESIDENT KENNEDY IS GIVING A SPEECH.
aw, DARN...
WELL, GUESS I'LL STAY UP HERE AND READ THESE NEW COMICS.
LIL' FRED
...LET'S SEE, WHAT DO I WANT TO READ FIRST? THIS ONE? Nah. HOW ABOUT THIS ONE? WELL, MAYBE. BUT, ah, NO, NOT NOW. THIS? ARE YOU KIDDING? WHY DO YOU EVEN BUY THIS? FACE IT, FRED, YOU JUST BLEW 12¢, AND UNLIKE YOUR NOSE, THAT YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO BLOW. Hmm, LESSEE, HOW ABOUT?--
YEAH!! THE NEW FANTASTIC FOUR!!
GEE, I REALLY LIKE THESE MARVEL COMICS. THEY'RE JUST SO NEAT. Stan Lee, JACK KIRBY, STEVE DITKO, DON HECK --ALL THOSE GUYS--THEY SEEM LIKE SUCH FRIENDLY GUYS. NOT LIKE THOSE SQUARES OVER AT THE COMPETITION. THEIR BOOKS ARE SO FAMOUS--OF COURSE I STARTED READING THEIR COMICS FIRST. I WAS 8 YEARS OLD--WHAT DID I KNOW? BOY, WHAT A LUCKY DAY IT WAS FOR ME LAST YEAR WHEN I STUMBLED ACROSS FANTASTIC FOUR #1. AT 9, A GENIUS. SUCH FUN COMICS. mmm...
WOW, THAT WAS GOOD! I WONDER IF WE'LL EVER SEE DR. DOOM AGAIN, OR IF THAT'S REALLY THE END OF HIM? WELL, WHATEVER THE CASE, I'LL KNOW, CUZ I DON'T PLAN TO MISS ANY MARVEL COMICS IN THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE. THEY'RE SWELL! FOR A SMALL COMPANY, THEY SURE PUT OUT SOME AMAZING COMIC BOOKS! I DON'T CARE IF THE OTHER GUYS DO SELL MORE--MARVEL'S NUMBER ONE WITH ME!!
HMM. I WONDER. I WONDER IF A SMALL BUT VITAL COMPANY LIKE MARVEL COULD EVER REALLY SELL MORE COMICS THAN ALL THE REST?..
Nah. IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN. GUESS I'D BETTER ENJOY THESE BOOKS WHILE I CAN...
LET'S SEE, WHAT'LL I READ NOW? HM.. THIS ONE AGAIN? sigh: MIGHT AS WELL--I DID PAY FOR IT, AFTER ALL...

NEWSWATCH

ITEM! Many readers have written to request that **Spider-Man** join **the Fantastic Four**, or team up with **the Human Torch**, or **the Sub-Mariner**, or **Thor**, or almost any and every super character in our ever-growing lineup. However, for the time being, we would like to limit him to a few occasional guest appearances with our other heroes (which will be announced, when space permits). **Stan** and **Steve** have so many wonderful, unusual ideas for future **SPIDER-MAN** tales, that we don't want to do anything to interfere with them.

ITEM! Wait till you see the big change in **ASTONISH #49** (on sale Aug. 1st). **Ant-Man** gains a great new power—and a new name! As for **the Wasp**—well, see for yourself! (To celebrate the occasion **Jack Kirby** himself drew this one).

ITEM! By the way, wanna share an "inside joke" with us? You may notice that **Jack** often draws crowd scenes—well, we at Marvel refer to the people in his crowds as "Kirby's Kast of Kharacters," and if you look closely, you'll see the same faces appearing over and over again. (Same goes for the Western covers he draws. Take a look!)

ITEM! Forgive us if we sound boastful, but we just can't help it. In the space of only three issues, **SPIDER-MAN** has become a comic magazine sensation! And so, we are proud to announce that, effective with **SPIDER-MAN #4**, **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** will be published monthly!

ITEM! Here's the result of our "Should **Reed** remains as leader of **the FF**?" poll. In favor of **Reed**: 6,043. Opposed to **Reed**: 422. 'Nuff said.

ITEM! A number of you have asked for more of **Dr. Strange**, in **STRANGE TALES**. So, we'll have another of his off-beat tales in **STRANGE TALES #114**—on sale August 8th. We almost hope you *don't* like him, because *boy*—are those stories hard to write!

ITEM! If you read our Coming Attractions, you've heard of our new super hero titles **THE X-MEN**. We here at Marvel are especially anxious for your opinions on the first issue of **X-MEN**, for we honestly believe it is destined to become one of the most talked-about teams in comic mag history! Also, be on the lookout for the big action-packed first issue of **THE AVENGERS!** It stars some of your all-time favorites—**Iron Man**, **Thor**, **Ant-Man**, **the Wasp** and more powerful than ever, the incredible **Hulk**! Yes, they're all together in one book-length tale, in the now-famous **Lee-Kirby** style!

MAKE MINE MARVEL!

Address your letters to: **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**, Third Floor
655 Madison Avenue, New York 21, NY

What a great letters page title, huh? As usual, we ask our fans to send in suggested titles we can use for this page each month—and the only trouble is, this one came with no name attached! We're using it anyway, and encouraging the reader who suggested it to 'fess up!

And to the rest of you, keep those suggestions coming in! Between now and the August 1986 issue, we'll need 276 letters page titles! So write now!

Dear **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**,

I only have one complaint about **SGT. FURY AND HIS HOWLING COMMANDOS**— YEECH!! What a name!!

Robert Purinton
91 Ravine Road
Medford, Mass.

No! No! No! His name is NICK—not Yeech!

Dear Editors,

I thought **FANTASTIC FOUR** was great, but **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** is superb, excellent! Glad to see **S. Lee** and **S. Ditko** together on such a great mag. In my opinion **Spider-Man's** adventures are superb, great fantasy, plots, and artwork. If future issues are as good or better than #1, they'll be excellent. About **AMAZING ADULT FANTASY** (where **Spider-Man** first appeared), what ever happened to it? I thought it was a great mag. The first issue of **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** was truly superb. Thanks for a great mag.

Arthur Davis, Jr.
2809 Avenham Ave.
Roanoke 14, Virginia

You're more than welcome, Art! As for AMAZING ADULT FANTASY, we're glad of this opportunity to explain its demise to all those who've asked about it. Judging by your mail, those of you who read the mag LOVED it . . . but judging by our sales, not enough readers BOUGHT A.A.F.! So, just for kicks, we decided to create a new super character (Spider-Man) and throw away all the rules, making him as original and as different as we could. We planned to present him in the final issues of AMAZING ADULT FANTASY, just to satisfy ourselves. But the rest is history! His surprise appearance jolted readers everywhere, and we were deluged with letters demanding that he be given his own magazine. So there you are . . . AMAZING ADULT FANTASY has now become AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, and a new super hero sensation has joined the Marvel galaxy of stars!

Dear Marvel,

Finally made up my mind to write and tell you that it's been a pleasure to read your magazines. I remember reading **SUB-MARINER** way back in the '40's when I was in high school. I don't read many comics, but I wouldn't miss an issue put out by the Marvel Comics Group. I would love to see a lot of the "old characters" revived again. Your new character **SPIDER-MAN** is very interesting, to say the least, as is **Dr. Strange** in **STRANGE TALES**. Keep up the good work.

Mrs. Beryl Wright
15 Abbott St.
Worcester 2, Mass.

Thanks, Mrs. Wright. We hope you enjoy our stories as much as we enjoy our readers' letters.

Dear **Stan**, **Jack**, **Steve**, **Don**, and everyone,

I think the most controversial dispute in your mags today is the human interest matter. Should a comic hero act like a comic hero, or should he (or she) act like a real person? The only reason that there has developed a "regulation hero" which supposedly sets the pattern is that no one has had the "guts" to try something new and perhaps a bit more practical. Thanks to the Marvel Comics Group, "You've seen one, you've seen them all" no longer applies to all comics.

Fred Romanek
4928 Enfield Ave.
Encino, California

Thanks for the philosophical approach, Freddie.

Dear **Stan** and Crew,

I told my mother that you read every letter you get whether it's printed or not. She said, and I quote, "I'll bet secretaries read and answer them!"

Sidney D. Evans
33 Monsignor Reynolds Way
Boston 18, Mass.

We wish we HAD "secretaries," Sid! We've got one overworked little gal who opens the letters for us, and then we read each and every one—honest!

Dear **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**,

My husband and I first began reading the Marvel mags recently. Can't decide which is our favorite—they're all excellent. But we don't see any letters from any of the hundreds of Canadians who are your devoted fans. How come?

Linda and Percy Smoke
448 D'Arcy Street
Cobourg, Ontario
Canada

See? With one stroke of the pen we cement American-Canadian relations!

Dear **Stan** and **Jack**,

We are one of the many groups of fans who have a Fantastic Four Fan Club. Each of our members has an FF shirt which we made ourselves, and every member of the club is waiting for the **FF ANNUAL**. We also think that you should keep your pin-up pages because they're perfect for decorating our clubhouse.

We just had a poll on the comics and heroes in **the FF** and here's the result: Favorite Cover: "The Return of Dr. Doom"; Favorite Story: "The Mad Thinker And His Awesome Android"; Best Villain: **Doctor Doom**; Best Pin-up: Picture of **the Fantastic Four**; Best Member: **Human Torch**. I suppose that after this there'll be more FF polls so we're glad we started it.

Fantastic Four Fan Club
c/o Mark Gruenwald, secretary
605 North Sawyer
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

We hear that some of the Fantastic Four fan clubs are getting so exclusive that even the FF have trouble getting in! We want to thank all you fan club members all over the world for your terrific letters and enthusiasm. We genuinely appreciate it.

And that'll do it for another letter column! Be back next month! We sure will be!